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## China locking down cities with 18 million to stop virus

By **KEN MORITSUGU** and **YANAN WANG**  
Associated Press

**BEIJING (AP)** — Chinese authorities Thursday moved to lock down three cities with a combined population of more than 18 million in an unprecedented effort to contain the deadly new virus that has sickened hundreds of people and spread to other parts of the world during the busy Lunar

New Year travel period. The open-ended lockdowns are unmatched in size, embracing more people than New York City, Los Angeles and Chicago put together. The train station and airport in Wuhan, the epicenter of the outbreak, were shut down, and ferry, subway and bus service was halted.

Continued on Page 8



Passengers wear protective face masks on the subway in Hong Kong, Thursday, Jan. 23, 2020.

Associated Press

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## To our reader and clients;

In connection with the holiday, Betico Croes Day, Aruba Today will not be published on Saturday, January 25th, 2019. We will resume our publication on Monday, January 27th, 2019.



Born: January 25, 1938 - Died: November 26, 1986



In this Aug. 1, 2018, file photo, Cody Wilson, with Defense Distributed, holds a 3D-printed gun called the Liberator at his shop in Austin, Texas.

Associated Press

## Coalition of states sue over rules governing 3D-printed guns

By **MICHAEL BALSAMO** and **CHRIS GRYGIEL**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Attorneys general in 20 states and the District of Columbia filed a lawsuit Thursday challenging a federal regulation that could allow blueprints for making guns on 3D printers to be posted on the internet.

New York Attorney General Tish James, who helped lead the coalition of state attorneys general, argued that posting the blueprints would allow anyone to go online and use the downloadable files to create unregistered and untraceable assault-style weapons that could be difficult to detect.

The lawsuit, joined by California, Washington and 17 other states, was filed in U.S. District Court in Seattle. It is likely to reignite a fierce debate over the use of 3D-printed firearms and is the latest in a series of attempts by state law enforcement officials to block the Trump administration from eas-

ing the accessibility of the blueprints.

Proponents have argued there is a constitutional right to publish the material, but critics counter that making the blueprints readily accessible online could lead to an increase in gun violence and put weapons in the hands of criminals who are legally prohibited from owning them.

Washington state's attorney general Bob Ferguson said a previous multi-state lawsuit led a federal judge last year to strike down the administration's earlier attempt to allow the files to be distributed.

"Why is the Trump administration working so hard to allow domestic abusers, felons and terrorists access to untraceable, undetectable 3D-printed guns?" Ferguson said in a statement. For years, law enforcement officials have been trying to draw attention to the dangers posed by the so-called ghost guns, which contain no registra-

tion numbers that could be used to trace them.

A federal judge in November blocked an earlier attempt by the Trump administration to allow the files to be released online, arguing that the government had violated the law on procedural grounds. But the administration published formal rules on Thursday that transfer the regulation of 3D-printed guns from the State Department to the Commerce Department, which could open the door to making the blueprints available online. The state attorneys general argue the government is breaking the law and say such deregulation will "make it far easier for individuals ineligible to possess firearms under state or federal law to obtain a deadly weapon without undergoing a background check," according to the lawsuit. They also argue that the Commerce Department lacks the power to properly regulate 3D-printed guns. □

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# U.S. general says troop surge in Middle East may not end soon

**By LOLITA C. BALDOR**  
**ABOARD THE USS BATAAN**  
**(AP)** — Over the past eight months, the United States has poured more than 20,000 additional troops into the Middle East to counter the escalating threat from Iran that peaked with the recent missile attack on American forces in Iraq. Despite President Donald Trump's pledge to bring troops home, the top U.S. commander in the Middle East on Thursday said the most recent forces to enter the region could be there for "quite a while."

"You're here because I requested that you come," Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie told sailors and Marines aboard the USS Bataan amphibious assault ship, his voice booming over the ship's loudspeaker. "I'm not sure how long you're going to stay in the theater. We'll work that out as we go ahead. Could be quite a while, could be less than that, just don't know right now."

The Bataan and two other U.S. warships moved into the Middle East on Jan. 11. By Thursday, they were in the north Red Sea, roughly 50 miles south of the Sinai Peninsula. They are the latest additions to America's troop presence in the region. Since May, their numbers have grown from about 60,000 to more than 80,000.

Those increased deployments came despite two significant hurdles: Trump's persistent pledge to end the wars and bring troops home, and U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper's insistence that U.S. forces be shifted to the Asia-Pacific as a bulwark against threats from China.

In making its case for troops in the Middle East, the U.S. military points to Iran's Jan. 8 launch of as many as two dozen ballistic missiles at two Iraqi bases where U.S. troops were stationed. The attack was in retaliation for a U.S. drone strike that killed Qassem Soleimani, Iran's top general.

"Iran continues to pose a very real threat," McKenzie told reporters traveling

with him to the Bataan. "I do believe that they are deterred right now, at least from state-on-state actions by our response. And so I think that while that threat remains, I think we're in a period where they're certainly not seeking to escalate anything."

He added, however, that Iranian proxy forces, who may strike with or without direction from Iranian leaders, still present a threat. He noted that Iranian attacks against Saudi Arabia last fall came as a surprise.

"Iran is very hard to read," McKenzie said. "So I would say the fact that things are quiet for a while does not mean that necessarily things are getting better."

To help deter additional Iranian attacks, McKenzie asked to have the USS Bataan Amphibious Ready Group, which includes two other ships and a Marine Expeditionary Unit, divert from their original mission in Europe and go through the Suez Canal into the Red Sea. There are about 2,500 Marines and 1,500 sailors on the three ships.

That decision is the latest move since May to bolster the American presence in the region, including the deployment of the 1st Brigade, 82nd Airborne division, to Kuwait and Iraq after the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad was attacked. The U.S. also moved an aircraft carrier into the region last year. It has left and was replaced the USS Harry S. Truman. The Pentagon has sent additional fighter jets, bomber aircraft, and Patriot missile batteries to Middle East to provide additional security for U.S. troops and allies and as a show of force to deter attacks by Iran.

Those moves have increased the U.S. troop strength in the region to more than 83,000, based on numbers from several U.S. officials and other government agencies that track military movements.

Asked about the increase, McKenzie said he understands the demand for troops in other parts of the world, and he has had dis-

cussions with Esper about the level of risk in the Middle East.

Esper, who has approved the moves, is looking closely at worldwide deployments in a broader effort to meet the needs of the national defense strategy that identified China and Russia as the key future threats. Even as McKenzie was traveling to the Bataan, Esper was in Florida telling reporters that Russia and China are "mission number one."

"There's only a finite number of dollars, a finite number of troops, so I've got to figure out, where is the best place to put them? I've articulated in the past that I want to either return forces to the States to improve their readiness, or redeploy others" to the IndoPacific,



Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie, the top U.S. commander for the Middle East, meets with sailors and Marines on the USS Bataan amphibious assault ship on Thursday, Jan. 23, 2020, in the northern Red Sea.

Associated Press

Esper said.

Trump has argued that the U.S. must get out of the "endless wars" in the Middle East. But he has also singled

out Iran as a malign influence in the region, and after the Iranian missile strikes, was quick to threaten revenge. □

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In this Tuesday, June 28, 2016, file photo, a customer puts gas in their vehicle in Miami.

Associated Press

## Trump ups mileage proposal slightly over Obama standard

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Trump administration is making a concession on its proposed minimum fuel economy requirement for new vehicles, but environmental groups and a key Democratic senator complain it does not go far enough, and still falls well below the requirements set under the Obama adminis-

tration. Fuel economy standards would increase 1.5% per year from 2021 through 2026 under the new proposal. That's a reversal from the Trump administration's proposal in 2018, which sought to freeze the standards at 2020 levels. Environmentalists and Delaware Sen. Tom Carper hardly cheered the move, which doesn't come close to the 5% annual increase that the Obama administration had mandated.

Carper, senior Democrat on the Environment and Public Works Committee, released some details of the latest fuel-standards proposal in a letter Wednesday urging the administration to scrap its new mileage proposal as ineffective and costly. "My office's review of the draft final rule indicates that it utterly fails to provide any demonstrable safety, environmental or economic benefit to consumers or the country," Carper wrote in a letter to the Office of Management and Budget. The office reviews proposed regulations before they are finalized and printed in the Federal Register. The administration hasn't released the numbers, but they are detailed in Carper's letter to Paul Ray, a management and budget administrator.

The Trump administration has billed its mileage standards as safer and less costly to motorists, but there's a growing chorus of critics disputing that, including the Trump EPA's own scientific advisory board. The mileage rollback has become one of the most fiercely contested rollback efforts by the administration, prompting legal battles with California and other states and splitting loyalties of top automakers. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which develops fuel economy rules, wouldn't comment Thursday. It reissued a statement saying the rule will improve fuel economy, cut pollution and make vehicles more affordable.

When the Trump administration released its proposed "Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient Vehicles Rule" in 2018, it calculated that the rule would save 12,700 lives in car crashes through model year 2029. The logic was that relaxed fuel mileage standards would cut the cost of vehicles, making them more affordable and increasing sales. Since new vehicles are safer, lives would be saved.

The proposal pegged the cost of meeting Obama-era requirements at \$2,700 per vehicle and said buyers would save that much per car by 2025. □

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# Shootings in downtown Seattle prompting calls for action

By LISA BAUMANN

**SEATTLE (AP)** — A shootout in downtown Seattle during the evening commute that left a woman dead and a 9-year-old boy injured was the third violent incident this week in a part of the city long known for rampant drug use and street unrest.

Business groups implored officials to improve public safety. And while crime rates in Seattle are low compared to other big cities, critics say mayhem downtown — from shootings, to drug dealing and the effects of the city's ongoing homelessness crisis — makes locals and tourists feel unsafe.

The Downtown Seattle Association, a business group, said in a statement the



Officers attend to one of several shooting victims, Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2020, in Seattle, after a gunman opened fire in the heavily trafficked downtown area.

Associated Press

area where Wednesday's shooting happened has been a high-crime spot for years. "We call on pub-

lic officials to devote the resources necessary to improve safety in downtown," the group said. "We say enough is enough."

Three people, including the boy, remained hospitalized Thursday after police say several people opened fire, killing a woman. It was the third downtown Seattle shooting in two days.

Authorities began receiving calls of multiple gunshot victims at about 5 p.m., said Seattle Fire Chief Harold Scoggins. The person who died was a woman in her 40s, fire officials said. Seven people were treated for gunshot wounds, said Harborview Medical Center spokeswoman Susan Gregg.

The condition of a 55-year-old woman was upgraded from critical condition to

serious and a 32-year-old man and the boy were listed in satisfactory condition. Amazon, which has offices nearby and is the city's largest employer, said two of its workers who happened to be passing by were wounded, but their injuries were not life-threatening.

"We are deeply troubled by last night's events in Seattle and our thoughts go out to everyone impacted by this tragedy," Amazon said in a statement Thursday.

Video showed several people firing weapons after the dispute outside a McDonald's. Police including homicide and gang units were investigating.

"This is not a random incident, there were multiple people involved," said Police Chief Carmen Best. "There was a dispute that happened in front of the McDonald's, people pulled out guns, shots rang out, people ran in various directions."

Seattle Police said via Twitter Thursday they were searching for two suspects considered armed and dangerous: Marquise Latrelle Tolbert and William Ray Tolliver, both 24. Records show both have lengthy arrest records.

Samantha Cook said she was in a nearby train station when she heard gunfire Wednesday.

"I was on the first set of escalators," Cook told The Seattle Times. "There were a lot of gunshots that started going off — maybe 10 or 11. It was just rapid fire." □

## David Duke agrees to pay \$5K to man hurt at Virginia rally

By ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS

Associated Press

**COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)** — Former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke has agreed to pay an Ohio man \$5,000 after the man alleged he was severely injured during a white supremacist and neo-Nazi rally two years ago in Virginia attended by Duke, according to attorneys and court documents. Bill Burke, of Athens, Ohio, says he was struck by a car driven by James Alex Fields Jr. — in a crash that killed counter protester Heather Heyer — during the August 2017 rally in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Burke's physical injuries still require medical treatment and may be permanent, and he has experienced "severe psychological and emotional suffering," according to Burke's May 2019 federal lawsuit.

The lawsuit names multiple defendants, including Fields and Duke. Burke on Tuesday accepted an "offer of judgment" from Duke for \$5,000, according to court records and Duke's attorney.

The judgment "is a step in the right direction for those



In an Aug. 12, 2017, file photo, David Duke arrives to give remarks after a white nationalist protest was declared an unlawful assembly, in Charlottesville, Va.

Associated Press

who refuse to be silenced or intimidated by white supremacy," said Michael Fradin, representing Burke. Kyle Bristow, a lawyer representing Duke, noted that Duke "categorically and vigorously denied" the allegations in the lawsuit. "I merely attended a rally to defend the heritage and rights of European-Americans," Duke said in a statement provided by Bristow. "I have always been dedicated to non-violence and human rights, and I condemn violence."

The "Unite the Right" rally on Aug. 12, 2017, drew hun-

dreds of white nationalists to Charlottesville to protest the planned removal of a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.

In December 2018, Fields was convicted of first-degree murder in the killing of Heyer and multiple charges for injuries caused to others in the car attack. He was sentenced to life in prison plus 419 years. He is appealing his convictions. Fields, of Maumee, Ohio, already is serving life sentences after accepting a plea agreement in a separate federal hate crimes case. □

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# Prosecutor: DNA match leads to Florida 'pillowcase rapist'

By **CURT ANDERSON**  
AP Legal Affairs Writer

**MIAMI (AP)** — A DNA match has led to a Florida man prosecutors suspect is the "pillowcase rapist" responsible for numerous sexual assaults of women in the Miami area during the 1980s.

Robert Koehler, 60, was arrested over the weekend in Brevard County and was being held without bond Thursday after his transfer to a Miami jail. He faces charges in one assault though authorities say as many as 25 victims could be involved.

Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle said it will take time to locate victims and determine if there is enough evidence to prosecute all of these cases. The rapes occurred between 1981 and 1986.

She said the arrest of Koehler will "hopefully bring some justice and some measure of peace" to the victims. Rundle also said quick work by lab technicians coupled with improvements in DNA technology led to the arrest.



**Robert Eugene Koehler in court at his first appearance before Judge David Silverman via closed circuit Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020 at the Brevard County Jail in Sharpes, Fla.**

Associated Press

"They did a phenomenal job," she said. "It's going to take some time. But we feel confident that there are a number of sufficient cases that we can prosecute. We want to ensure that this man is never, ever free

again." Authorities in Brevard County also found a pit of sorts had been dug under Koehler's house, according to a search warrant. They also said they found several safes containing women's

jewelry and other items, including a nail file, that might be linked to some of the crimes.

The "pillowcase rapist" was so named because he used a pillowcase or other fabric to cover the faces of his victims, usually after he broke into an apartment or town home.

The assaults were often committed at knifepoint, authorities said.

Alfredo Ramirez, director of the Miami-Dade Police Department, said the investigation was a massive one encompassing much of South Florida. The series of assaults terrorized South Florida for the early 1980s.

"A lot of sweat and tears was put into this case," Ramirez said. "We're going to make sure he stays in jail."

According to an arrest warrant, investigators obtained a DNA sample from Koehler's son following an unrelated arrest. That sample was linked to one of the assaults, leading detectives to Brevard County where they followed Koehler to obtain DNA samples from objects he touched.

They had a match.

When he appeared in Brevard County court before his transfer to Miami, Koehler blurted out that he was "not guilty" of the assaults. He was convicted in a 1990 rape in Palm Beach County and sentenced to probation, which he later violated and served 120 days in jail.

That case, however, was never linked to the series of assaults in Miami and elsewhere in South Florida. Rundle said that was mainly because DNA samples were not yet mandatory.

A task force launched in the 1980s to search for the attacker was disbanded in 1987, but was recently revived by the Miami-Dade Police Department's cold case squad.

"No matter how long ago it happened, we will never forget," Ramirez said.

Authorities said Koehler had worked as an electrician while living in Palm Bay, Florida.

Rundle said victims could be living anywhere now. She urged them to call a hotline set up for this case: 305-547-0441. □

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## Need a legal pot shop in California? Grab your smartphone



**In this June 28, 2017, file photo, workers put barcode stickers on jars of marijuana at the Desert Grown Farms cultivation facility in Las Vegas.**

Associated Press

By **MICHAEL R. BLOOD**  
Associated Press  
**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Want to find a legal marijuana shop in California? Grab your smartphone. In another step to curb the

state's flourishing illegal pot market, California regulators proposed rules Thursday that would require legal shops to post a unique black-and-white code in storefront windows to help

consumers identify licensed businesses.

Shoppers could use their smartphones to scan the familiar, boxy label known as a QR code — similar to a bar code — to determine if a business is selling legal, tested cannabis products. The codes also would be required when transporting or delivering cannabis.

"The proposed regulations will help consumers avoid purchasing cannabis goods from unlicensed businesses," said Lori Ajax, who heads the state's Bureau of Cannabis Control. "These requirements will also assist law enforcement

in distinguishing between legal and illegal transportation of cannabis goods." California — the world's largest legal pot market — kicked off broad, legal sales in January 2018. □

# Michelle Carter, of texting suicide case, freed from jail

By PHILIP MARCELO  
Associated Press

**BOSTON (AP)** — Michelle Carter, the woman convicted of manslaughter for urging her suicidal boyfriend to kill himself in text messages that included, "Just do it, babe," was released from jail Thursday after more than three months was shaved from her sentence for good behavior. Carter, 23, walked out of the Bristol County jail in Dartmouth, Massachusetts, wearing the same white blazer, dark slacks and a dark turtleneck she wore last February, when a judge ordered her to begin serving a 15-month sentence. The Plainville native didn't speak as two jail staffers escorted her to an SUV where her lawyer and parents were waiting for her. She also declined to speak to reporters later Thursday as she reported to her probation officer. State officials say Carter's probation ends Aug. 1, 2022. She also can't have any contact with her late boyfriend Conrad Roy III's family and can't profit from her story during that time. Roy's mother, Lynn Roy, said Thursday she's looking forward to a "new chapter" in her life. "It is now time to focus on the positives in my life," she said in a statement. "I will continue to honor my son every day, keeping his memory and spirit in my memory, and to find ways to help others who may be experiencing what I have experienced." Roy's aunt Becki Maki acknowledged the family is "disappointed" Carter wasn't required to serve her full sentence, but said that it still "doesn't change that Conrad is forever gone." Bristol County Sheriff Thomas Hodgson, who oversees the jail where Carter served her sentence, said he understood how Carter's release could be painful for Roy's family and others. But he said Carter had been a "model inmate" who stayed out of trouble and par-

icipated in jail programs, which under state law allowed her to accrue time off her sentence. Carter's release comes after the U.S. Supreme Court declined last week to hear her lawyers' appeal of her involuntary manslaughter conviction in Roy's 2014 death. It also comes after she was denied parole in September. State parole board members said in their decision that they "remain troubled" that Carter not only encouraged Roy to kill himself, but also actively prevented others from intervening. Carter's case garnered national attention, including an HBO special, as it raised thorny legal questions about free speech and provided a disturbing look at teenage relationships and depression. It also sparked legislative proposals in Massachusetts to criminalize suicide coercion. In text messages sent in the days before Roy's death, Carter encouraged him to follow through with his suicide plan and chastised him when he didn't. "The time is right and you are ready ... just do it babe," Carter, who was 17 at the time, wrote in a text the day Roy, 18, killed himself. A judge determined Carter caused Roy's death when she ordered him in a phone call to get back into his parked truck, which he had rigged to fill up with deadly carbon monoxide. The phone call wasn't recorded, but the judge relied on a text Carter sent a different friend in which she said she had told Roy to "get back in." Carter opted for a bench trial, an unusual legal strategy that meant a judge decided her fate rather than a jury. She also did not testify in her defense at the trial. The state's highest court upheld Carter's conviction last February and she was ordered to begin serving

her jail sentence. "After she convinced him to get back into the carbon monoxide filled truck, she did absolutely nothing to help him: she did not call for help or tell him to get out of the truck as she listened to him choke and die," Justice Scott Kafker wrote in the state Supreme Judicial Court's decision. Carter and Roy both lived in Massachusetts but met in Florida in 2012 while both were on vacation with their families. Their relationship consisted mainly of texting and other electronic communications. Both teens had depression, and Roy had made suicide attempts.



Michelle Carter leaves the Bristol County jail, Thursday, Jan. 23, 2020, in Dartmouth, Mass., after serving most of a 15-month manslaughter sentence for urging her suicidal boyfriend to kill himself in 2014.

Associated Press

Carter's lawyers argued in their Supreme Court appeal that the conviction should be thrown out because it was an "unprecedented" violation of their client's First Amendment rights that suggested "words alone" are enough to hold someone responsible for another

person's suicide. The lawyers also argued that there was simply not enough evidence to prove Carter urged Roy to get back in his truck to die, or that he would have lived if she had called for help or taken other actions to try and save his life. □



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**Continued from Front**

Normally bustling streets, shopping malls, restaurants and other public spaces in the city of 11 million were eerily quiet. Police checked all incoming vehicles but did not close off the roads. Authorities announced similar measures would take effect Friday in the nearby cities of Huanggang and Ezhou. In Huanggang, theaters, internet cafes and other entertainment centers were also ordered closed.

In the capital, Beijing, officials canceled "major events" indefinitely, including traditional temple fairs that are a staple of holiday celebrations, in order to "execute epidemic prevention and control." The Forbidden City, the palace complex in Beijing that is now a museum, announced it will close indefinitely on Saturday.

Seventeen people have died in the outbreak, all of them in and around Wuhan. Close to 600 have been infected, the vast majority of them in Wuhan, and many countries have begun screening travelers from China for symptoms of the virus, which can cause fever, coughing, trouble breathing and pneumonia. Chinese officials have not said how long the shutdowns will last. While sweeping measures are typical of China's communist government, large-scale quarantines are rare around the world, even in deadly epidemics, because of concerns about infringing on people's liberties. And the effectiveness of such measures is unclear. "To my knowledge, trying to contain a city of 11 million people is new to science," Gauden Galea, the World Health Organization's representative in China, said in an interview. "It has not been tried before as a public health measure. We cannot at this stage say it



**A militia member uses a thermometer gun to take a driver's temperature at a checkpoint at a highway toll gate in Wuhan in central China's Hubei Province, Thursday, Jan. 23, 2020.**

Associated Press

will or it will not work."

Jonathan Ball, a professor of virology at molecular virology at the University of Nottingham in Britain, said the lockdowns appear to be justified scientifically.

"Until there's a better understanding of what the situation is, I think it's not an unreasonable thing to do," he said. "Anything that limits people's travels during an outbreak would obviously work."

But Ball cautioned that any such quarantine should be strictly time-limited. He added: "You have to make sure you communicate effectively about why this is being done. Otherwise you will lose the goodwill of the people."

During the devastating West Africa Ebola outbreak in 2014, Sierra Leone imposed a national three-day quarantine as health teams went door-to-door searching for hidden cases. Frustrated residents complained of food shortages amid deserted streets. Burial teams collecting Ebola corpses and people transporting the sick to Ebola centers were the only ones allowed to move freely.

In China, the illnesses from the newly identified coro-

navirus first appeared last month in Wuhan, an industrial and transportation hub in central China's Hubei province. Other cases have been reported in the U.S., Japan, South Korea and Thailand. Singapore, Vietnam and Hong Kong reported their first cases Thursday.

Most of the illnesses outside China involve people who were from Wuhan or had recently traveled there.

Images from Wuhan showed long lines and empty shelves at supermarkets, as residents stocked up for what could be weeks of isolation. That appeared to be an over-reaction, since no restrictions were placed on trucks carrying supplies into the city, although many Chinese have strong memories of shortages in the years before the country's recent economic boom.

Local authorities in Wuhan demanded all residents wear masks in public places. Police, SWAT teams and paramilitary troops guarded Wuhan's train station. Liu Haihan left Wuhan last Friday after visiting her boyfriend there. She said everything was normal then, before human-to-human

transmission of the virus was confirmed. But things had changed rapidly.

Her boyfriend "didn't sleep much yesterday. He disinfected his house and stocked up on instant noodles," Liu said. "He's not really going out. If he does, he wears a mask."

The sharp rise in illnesses comes as millions of Chinese travel for the Lunar New Year, one of the world's largest annual migrations of people. Chinese are expected to take an estimated 3 billion trips during the 40-day spike in travel.

Analysts predicted cases will continue to multiply, although the jump in numbers is also attributable in part to increased monitoring. "Even if (cases) are in the thousands, this would not surprise us," the WHO's Galea said, adding, however, that the number of those infected is not an indicator of the outbreak's severity, so long as the mortality rate remains low.

The coronavirus family includes the common cold as well as viruses that cause more serious illnesses, such as the SARS outbreak that spread from China to more than a dozen countries in 2002-03 and killed about 800 people, and Middle Eastern respiratory syndrome, or MERS, which is thought to have originated from camels.

China is keen to avoid repeating mistakes with its handling of SARS. For months, even after the illness had spread around

the world, China parked patients in hotels and drove them around in ambulances to conceal the true number of cases and avoid WHO experts.

In the current outbreak, China has been credited with sharing information rapidly, and President Xi Jinping has emphasized that as a priority.

"Party committees, governments and relevant departments at all levels must put people's lives and health first," Xi said Monday. "It is necessary to release epidemic information in a timely manner and deepen international cooperation." Health authorities were taking extraordinary measures to prevent additional person-to-person transmissions, placing those believed infected in plastic tubes and wheeled boxes, with air passed through filters.

The first cases in the Wuhan outbreak were connected to people who worked at or visited a seafood market, which has since been closed for an investigation. Experts suspect that the virus was first transmitted from wild animals but that it may also be mutating. Mutations can make it deadlier or more contagious.

WHO convened its emergency committee of independent experts on Thursday to consider whether the outbreak should be declared a global health emergency, after the group failed to come to a consensus on Wednesday. The U.N. health agency defines a global emergency as an "extraordinary event" that constitutes a risk to other countries and requires a coordinated international response.

A declaration of a global emergency typically brings greater money and resources, but may also prompt nervous governments to restrict travel to and trade with affected countries. The announcement also imposes more disease-reporting requirements on countries.

Declaring an international emergency can also be politically fraught. Countries typically resist the notion that they have a crisis within their borders and may argue strenuously for other control measures. □





## Survey: Nearly half of Afghans want U.S. troops out after deal

By TAMEEM AKHGAR  
Associated Press

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)** — Nearly half of all Afghans want U.S. and NATO troops to leave Afghanistan once a peace deal to end the country's 18-year war is signed with the Taliban, according to a survey released Thursday.

The American Institute of War and Peace Studies also found that an overwhelming 80% of Afghans surveyed said a political solution was the only way to bring about an end to fighting. Twenty percent said a military solution was possible.

The survey found that 46% of Afghans want U.S. and NATO troops out of the country once a deal is struck, while 33% would have them stay.

The survey polled 5,038 Afghans in 34 provinces. It was conducted between Nov. 23-Dec. 20 and has a 5% margin of error. Sixty-one percent of participants answered online with the remaining 39% were interviewed in person.

While 57% of those surveyed wanted the Taliban to evict

the foreign fighters among them, a surprising 47% of respondents said they should be allowed to remain in the country. Many of those foreigners are believed to have links to al-Qaida and other militant organizations. Washington has been talking directly with the Taliban since September 2018, when the White House appointed Afghan-American Zalmay Khalilzad to start peace talks. The talks are aimed at finding an agreement to end America's longest conflict and allow the U.S. to bring home its troops.

The survey showed Afghans were divided over the choice of Khalilzad as chief negotiator, with 41% favoring his appointment and 39% opposed. A whopping 20%, however, said they had no opinion.

Of the 5,038 Afghans surveyed, 3,274 were men and just 1,764 were women. A strong 83% of those surveyed said women should be involved in the peace negotiations, while just 17% were opposed.

A peace agreement, which is being negotiated



In this Sept. 11, 2011 file photo, Spc. Angel Batista, 26, left to right, of Bloomingdale, N.J., Spc. Jacob Greene, 22, of Shreveport, La., and Sgt. Joe Altmann, 26, of Marshfield, Wisc., with the U.S. Army's 25th Infantry Division, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Battalion 27th Infantry Regiment based in Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, sit beneath a new American flag just raised to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks Sept. 11, 2011 at Forward Operating Base Bostick in Kunar province, Afghanistan.

Associated Press

between Khalilzad and Taliban negotiators, will leave it to Afghans on both sides of the conflict to negotiate the face of a post-war Afghanistan. They must decide on constitutional changes enshrining the rights of women, media and free speech. The ne-

gotiations will decide the future of Taliban fighters as well as the heavily armed militias belonging to warlords ruling in Kabul.

The majority of Afghans surveyed said they feared their homeland would descend into civil war if America pulls out its troops with-

out first getting a peace deal.

As Afghans contemplate a future without a U.S. military troop presence, in Iraq the killing earlier this month of Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani has bolstered Iran's efforts to see U.S. troops leave Iraq. □

## Police bust ring accused of smuggling 10,000 migrants to UK

**PARIS (AP)** — French and Dutch police have arrested 23 suspected members of a criminal network that has smuggled as many as 10,000 migrants from France to Britain, according to the European police agency Europol.

The network was suspected of earning 70 million euros (\$77.6 million) in profits by organizing illegal passages for migrants from Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq and Iran, Europol said Thursday.

The migrants traveled to Britain from around the western French cities of Le Mans and Poitiers. Many of them faced life-threatening conditions, hidden in refrigerator trucks crossing the English Channel by ferry or undersea train. As many

as 20 migrants were held in each truck and each paid as much as 7,000 euros (\$7,760) for the crossing, Europol said. A suspect in the Netherlands collected those payments via an underground banking system, Europol said. Police seized firearms and vehicles in five searches, and the migrants found during the operation were taken to safety.

Ton van Lierop, a spokesman for Eurojust, said most of the arrests were Tuesday in France.

The operation came amid renewed attention to migrants risking their lives in trucks trying to cross the Channel after 39 Vietnamese trying to enter Britain died in October in a refrigerated truck container. □

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A woman pauses at a memorial prior to a ceremony in Montreal, Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020, to remember those who lost their lives in a Ukraine airplane crash in Iran on Jan. 8.

Associated Press

## Canada's TSB says Iran has invited it to examine black boxes

**TORONTO (AP)** — Canada's Transportation Safety Board said Thursday it has been invited by Iran to participate in the download and analysis of the flight recorders from the downing of a Ukraine International Airlines jet "whenever and wherever" that takes place. Iran has acknowledged that its armed forces fired two Russian anti-aircraft missiles at the jetliner that crashed after taking off from Tehran's main airport earlier this month, killing all 176 people on board. Fifty-seven Canadians died and 138 of the passengers were headed to Canada.

The Transportation Safety Board said in a statement it understands that the plane's flight-data recorders — commonly known as black boxes — are still in Iran and said Iran is assessing options for their download and analysis, including doing it in Iran.

Iranian officials have offered contradictory remarks on whether they'll send the plane's flight data and cockpit voice recorders abroad to be analyzed. A preliminary report by the Civil Aviation Organization said Iranian officials had asked French and American authorities to send them "up-to-date equipment" to pull the data in Iran.

Canada's Transportation Safety Board said it will deploy a second team of investigators to examine

the recorders whenever and wherever that activity takes place. Two other Canadian safety board investigators are heading back to Canada after six days in Tehran and two in Kyiv. The investigators are still seeking a bigger role in the probe, but the TSB says the Iranian authorities have been co-operative and helpful. Iran may be hesitant to turn over the recorders for fear that more details from the crash — including the harrowing 20 seconds between when the first and second surface-to-air missiles hit the plane — will come to light. The government of Canada has said the boxes should be sent quickly for analysis by experts in either France or Ukraine.

The Guard's air defenses shot the plane down shortly after it took off from Tehran on Jan. 8. Hours earlier, the Guard had launched ballistic missiles at U.S. troops in Iraq in response to the U.S. airstrike that killed Iran's top general in Baghdad. Officials say lower-level officers mistook the plane for a U.S. cruise missile.

Iranian officials initially said the crash was caused by a technical problem and invited countries that lost citizens to help investigate. Three days later, Iran admitted responsibility after Western leaders said there was strong evidence the plane was hit by a surface-to-air missile. □



Tun Khin, President of the Burmese Rohingya Organisation UK, reacts outside the International Court in The Hague, Netherlands, Thursday, Jan. 23, 2020, after the court ordered Myanmar take all measures in its power to prevent genocide against the Rohingya.

Associated Press

## Rohingya hail UN ruling that Myanmar act to prevent genocide

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)** — The United Nations' top court on Thursday ordered Myanmar to do all it can to prevent genocide against the Rohingya people, a ruling met by members of the Muslim minority with gratitude and relief but also some skepticism that the country's rulers will fully comply.

The ruling by the International Court of Justice came despite appeals last month by Myanmar's civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi for the judges to drop the case amid her denials of genocide by the armed forces that once held the former pro-democracy champion under house arrest for 15 years.

Judge Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf, president of the court, said in his order that the Rohingya in Myanmar "remain extremely vulnerable."

In a unanimous decision, the 17-judge panel added that its order for so-called provisional measures intended to protect the Rohingya is binding "and creates international legal obligations" on Myanmar.

While the court has no ability to enforce the orders, one international law expert said the ruling will strengthen other na-

tions pressing for change in Myanmar.

"Thus far, it's been states trying to put pressure on Myanmar or using their good offices or ... diplomatic pressure," said Priya Pillai, head of the Asia Justice Coalition Secretariat. "Now, essentially for any state, there is legal leverage."

The orders specifically refer to Rohingya still in Myanmar and thus did not look likely to have an immediate impact on more than 700,000 of them who have fled to neighboring Bangladesh in recent years to escape Myanmar's brutal crackdown.

Even so, Yasmin Ullah, a Rohingya activist who lives in Vancouver and was in court for the decision, called it a historic ruling.

"Today, having the judges unanimously agree to the protection of Rohingya means so much to us because we're now allowed to exist and it's legally binding," she told reporters on the steps of the court.

But asked if she believes Myanmar will comply, she replied: "I don't think so."

Myanmar's legal team left the court without commenting. Later, its foreign ministry said in a statement that it took note of the rul-

ing, but repeated its assertion that there has been no genocide against the Rohingya.

The court sought to safeguard evidence that could be used in future prosecutions, ordering Myanmar to "take effective measures to prevent the destruction and ensure the preservation of evidence related" to allegations of genocidal acts.

At the end of an hour-long session in the court's wood-paneled Great Hall of Justice, judges also ordered Myanmar to report to them in four months on what measures the country has taken to comply with the order and then to report every six months as the case moves slowly through the world court.

"I think this is the court maybe being much more proactive and ... careful in acknowledging that this is a serious situation and there needs to be much more follow-up and monitoring by the court itself, which is quite unusual as well," Pallai said.

Rohingya refugees living in camps in Bangladesh welcomed the order, which was even supported by a temporary judge appointed by Myanmar to be part of the panel. □



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Women gather their belongings salvaged from the shacks they lived in near the airport in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, Thursday Jan. 23, 2020.

Associated Press

## Ivory Coast clears homes near airport after stowaway death

By ALEXIS ADELE  
Associated Press

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)

— Construction crews began leveling homes deemed too close to the airport in Ivory Coast's commercial capital on Thursday, part of a crackdown on informal settlements after a teenage boy died earlier this month as a flight stowaway.

The tragedy involving an Air France jet bound for Paris underscored the risks that many in the West African nation are willing to take for a chance to live in Europe when they lack visas and the financial means to take commercial flights.

Authorities said the evictions would help to establish a 200-meter (yard) safety buffer around the airport in Abidjan. Many of the affected residents pleaded for a grace period to allow their children to complete the current school year in July, but government officials said their homes were illegal.

"These occupations pose air safety and security

problems," Communications Minister Sidy Toure said after a cabinet meeting earlier this month.

The boy's lifeless body was found after the flight landed at Paris' Charles de Gaulle Airport, Air France said in a statement, expressing its "deepest sympathy and compassion for this human tragedy."

While some of the 25,000 residents of the area were given 45 days notice to move, demolition crews began taking down homes closest to the airport on Thursday.

The crews even destroyed the neighborhood mosque, Imam Issa Sankoudouma said.

"We said at least leave the mosque, smash the homes, but they smashed everything," he said. "So the mosque has gone, we are here, we got what we could from our homes."

Bernard Assamoi, a 56-year-old electrician who faces eviction, said residents can't afford decent housing. "Our daily life is the search for food. □



In this undated photo released from the Rural Fire Service, a C-130 Hercules plane called "Thor" drops water during a flight in Australia. Officials in Australia on Thursday, Jan. 23, 2020, searched for a water tanker plane feared to have crashed while fighting wildfires.

Associated Press

## Firefighting plane crashes in Australia, killing 3 Americans

SYDNEY (AP) — Three American crew members were killed Thursday when a C-130 Hercules aerial water tanker crashed while battling wildfires in southeastern Australia, officials said.

New South Wales Premier Gladys Berejiklian confirmed the crash deaths in the state's Snowy Monaro region, which came as Australia grapples with an unprecedented fire season that has left a large swath of destruction.

Coulson Aviation in the U.S. state of Oregon said in a statement that one of its Lockheed large air tankers was lost after it left Richmond in New South Wales with retardant for a fire-bombing mission. It said the accident was "extensive" but had few other details.

"The only thing I have from the field reports are that the plane came down, it's crashed and there was a

large fireball associated with that crash," said Rural Fire Service Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons.

Foreign Minister Marise Payne said she had conveyed Australia's condolences to U.S. Ambassador Arthur Culvahouse Jr.

"Our hearts go out to their loved ones. They were helping Australia, far from their own homes, an embodiment of the deep friendship between our two countries," she said in a statement.

"Thank you to these three, and to all the brave firefighters from Australia and around the world. Your service and contribution are extraordinary. We are ever grateful," she added.

The tragedy brings the death toll from the blazes to at least 31 since September. The fires have also destroyed more than 2,600 homes and razed more than 10.4 million hectares

(25.7 million acres), an area bigger than the U.S. state of Indiana.

Coulson grounded other firefighting aircraft as a precaution pending investigation, reducing planes available to firefighters in New South Wales and neighboring Victoria state. The four-propeller Hercules drops more than 15,000 liters (4,000 gallons) of fire retardant in a single pass.

Australian Transport Safety Bureau, the national air crash investigator, and state police will investigate the crash site, which firefighters described as an active fire ground.

"There is no indication at this stage of what's caused the accident," Fitzsimmons said.

Also Thursday, Canberra Airport closed temporarily because of nearby wildfires, and residents south of the city were told to seek shelter. □

# Puerto Ricans protest in anger over unused emergency aid

By **DANICA COTO**

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico**

**(AP)** — Hundreds of people joined a protest Thursday organized by Puerto Rican singer René Pérez of Calle 13 fame in a demonstration reminiscent of those that ousted the island's former governor last year. Anger is growing over emergency aid that until recently sat unused in a warehouse amid ongoing earthquakes.

Protesters began arriving at the seaside Capitol building banging on pots and clapping as they formed a large circle and demanded the ouster of Gov. Wanda Vázquez.

"We've had enough," said 82-year-old Iris Guardiola as she waved a tiny Puerto Rican flag. "The people are tired of the abuse... of the lack of humanity. I am here helping those who cannot be here."

The newest protest unleashed debate about whether Puerto Ricans should try to oust Vázquez as the U.S. territory struggles to recover from a recent 6.4 magnitude earthquake that killed one person and damaged hundreds of homes in the island's southern region. Officials are still awaiting millions of dollars in federal funds for Hurricane Maria, a Category 4 storm that hit in September 2017.



**Protesters hold an image of Gov. Wanda Vázquez during a protest organized by Puerto Rican singer Rene Perez of Calle 13 over emergency aid that until recently sat unused in a warehouse amid ongoing earthquakes, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Thursday, Jan. 23, 2020.**

**Associated Press**

One former protest leader, Rey Charlie, who jumped to fame after leading hundreds of motorcycle riders in a demonstration last summer, said he will not participate in the most recent one.

"A massive demonstration like the one last year would cause great damage, damage that I think would be irreparable," he said. "You are holding up the economy, you are holding up aid supplies to victims in the southern region, you

are paralyzing the country...You have to think of the consequences."

Charlie and other critics of the recent protests argue that the most effective strategy is to vote in the upcoming general elections in November, in which Vázquez is seeking a second term as governor. But first, she will face Pedro Pierluisi, a veteran politician who served as the island's representative in Congress, in the primary of their pro-statehood party. Pierluisi

was sworn in briefly as governor last year before the island's Supreme Court ruled that Vázquez was constitutionally next in line after former Gov. Ricardo Rosselló resigned following massive demonstrations.

Vázquez has only briefly addressed the recent protests, warning of people who want to talk about "negative issues."

"We cannot allow groups with other interests to divert our attention," she told reporters on Wednesday.

"We're in a moment of helping people in the south, not of creating controversy."

Vázquez came under fire on Saturday after an online blogger posted a live feed of a warehouse in the southern coastal city of Ponce filled with water, cots, baby food and other supplies dating from Hurricane Maria. A group of people broke into the warehouse and began distributing supplies to those affected by the recent 6.4 magnitude quake that prompted U.S. President Donald Trump to approve a major disaster declaration for more than a dozen municipalities in the island's southern region. More than 4,500 people remain in shelters.

The governor fired the director of Puerto Rico's emergency management agency shortly after the incident, as well as the secretaries of the department of housing and family, as she blamed them in part for not distributing the aid.

The Puerto Rican singer, Pérez, said people should not wait until the general elections to express their discontent.

"We're not going to wait until November because the politicians in this country are not going to wait until November to steal. They're going to steal starting now," he said. □

# Rio de Janeiro 2019 homicides fall as police killings surge

**RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)** — The number of homicides in Rio de Janeiro plunged to a record low in 2019, while police killings surged to a previously unseen level in the same year, according to official figures.

There were 3,995 homicides in 2019, down 19% compared to the prior year, said the security institute for Rio de Janeiro state. It was the lowest number since the state began keeping records in 1991.

However, as the official homicide rate fell, killings by police surged 18% in 2019. They numbered 1,810, the greatest amount since the state began keeping records for such killings in

1998.

The number of police killings fell every month through December to 124 since the high of 195 in July.

Police killings are not included in the tally of homicides, and human rights activists have sounded the alarm over a lethal approach that's rarely subject to scrutiny.

Rio Gov. Wilson Witzel celebrated the results on social media, saying "our security policy is generating positive results month after month." Witzel, who was elected in late 2018 on a law-and-order platform, has referred to criminals as "narco-terrorists" and proposed using helicopters as platforms

for snipers, who could target anyone carrying large firearms. B ringing down crime is a priority for Witzel, who aims to shore up economic activity by boosting tourism. Rio is already a top destination, with tourists coming from around the world for Carnival and New Year's festivities.

Experts have highlighted that Rio's trend of falling crime began in 2018, before Witzel was sworn in on Jan. 1, 2019. Furthermore, it isn't correlated with more lethal policing in Rio — even during Witzel's administration — and it mirrors a national trend, according to Túlio Kahn, a sociologist and an associate at the

non-profit group Brazilian Public Security Forum.

Theories abound as to the reason for the national improvement — individual states adopting new security policies, easing conflict between rival drug factions, demographic shifts, the transfer of gang members to federal prisons, and even proliferation of smart phones keeping young people off the streets. The most plausible explanation, Kahn says, is something else: improvement in Brazil's economy.

The decline "is happening in various Brazilian states, and in various crimes," he said by phone. "That has to do a lot, in my interpretation,

to do with the economic crisis from 2014 to 2016. It was very strong, generalized throughout the country, and caused a spike in crime."

Expansion of militias in Rio may also partly explain lower reports of shootouts in Rio. One estimate is that 2.2 million people in the metro area — out of more than 12 million residents — live under the thumb of militias. Originally made up of former police officers, firefighters and military men who wanted to combat lawlessness in their neighborhoods, they have come to be widely recognized as a large security threat themselves. □

LOCAL



**Investigation Autism Awareness in Aruba highlighted during conference in Hawaii: FAA research: how do families cope with ASD**

ORANJESTAD — Fundacion Autismo Aruba is ready to launch another important investigation to help improve the inclusion of people with Autism Spectrum Disorder, ASD. The Family Situation research follows a successful investigation on the awareness level of the Aruban society regarding ASD.

Results of the 2019 Aruban survey on Autism Awareness were recently highlighted during the Hawaii International Conference on Education. The presentation was led by Ms. Lizeth Alcantar of Coastal Carolina University, who along with Mr. Matthew Eichenlaub conducted the study on the level of awareness regarding Autism Spectrum Disorder in Aruba. Ms. Alcantar and Mr. Eichenlaub from the Public Health Department of Coastal Carolina University of South Carolina were in Aruba in 2019 for their internship at the Fundacion Autismo Aruba, FAA. They, under the guidance of FAA board member, Ms. Carolina Span, executed the research to measure the level of awareness of the local community of Aruba, on the topic of Autism Spectrum Disorder. The research was part of the advocacy plan of FAA.

Ms. Alcantar together with help from Dr. Royce of the Public Health department of Coastal Carolina University and Ms. Span from FAA, decided to make the research the topic of her Honor's Thesis for her bachelor's degree in Public Health. The thesis is titled Autism Spectrum Disorder Inclusivity in Aruba and concluded that the research showed the moderately high level of awareness that Aruba's adult population has on ASD as well as their knowledge and beliefs. However, a limitation is that the Aruban population does not know how to interact with children or individuals with ASD.

Impressed by Ms. Alcantar's work and the research conducted by FAA, Ms. Alcantar together with Dr. Royce were invited to the 2020 Hawaii International Conference on Education. Ms. Alcantar was asked to present the findings during presentation her presentation titled Measuring Knowledge and Awareness to Inform Education Strategies for ASD Inclusivity in Aruba.

Fundacion Autismo Aruba is extremely proud to see the findings of this very important research be presented during an international conference in Hawaii. FAA's main focus for the coming years will be to achieve the inclusion of individuals with ASD in the local school system and the community as a whole. We are off to a great start!

**New research**

In order to continue to gather important data to continue to work towards inclusion FAA is launching the next research in survey form titled "Family Situation of Children & Individuals with ASD". This research's focus group are parents and other family members close to children and individuals with ASD.

The survey will open on January 23rd and will close on February 24th. Students from the University of Aruba, Elida Arteaga, Natasha Matai, Gislaine Martijn, Joshua van Spaandonk and Stephanie Richardson will be assisting in the collection of the data and will also plan an informational event for all relevant stakeholders.

To complete the survey in English please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ASDfamily>

More information can be found on their facebook page



Fundacion Autismo Aruba or by email [fundacion\\_autismoaruba@yahoo.com](mailto:fundacion_autismoaruba@yahoo.com). □

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## Send us Your Home Greetings Video

ORANJESTAD — Aruba Today has a column called Aruba To Me where readers are invited to send their favorite vacation picture along with a text starting with “Aruba to me is...”. The column grew in popularity and the editorial department loves seeing this interaction with our readers.

It is wonderful to share the moments of joy of our readers who are vacationing here, but we can also imagine that there are people who stayed behind and who are being missed. Aruba Today would like to give the opportunity to you as an appreciated reader to send a live greeting to your beloved ones back home. It can be your parent, child, sister, brother, neighbor who takes care of the cat, friends ... name it. Now is your chance, send us your Home Greetings Video!

### What Do You Do

The only thing you need to do is record a short (maximum 1 minute) video with a greeting to home from Aruba and send it to email [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com). Also please write your name and where you are from as well as how long you will be staying in Aruba. We will post your video on the Facebook page and website of Aruba Today! In case you prefer to send a text and picture to have a printed vacation memory instead of a video, be our guest.

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## Eat Like The Locals Do

PALM BEACH — Are you looking for a nice atmosphere to enjoy Aruba's exquisite local seafood platters? Look no further. Aqua Grill offers you a stunning contemporary yet warm environment dinner setting that many consider a seafood-heaven place that is already a statement for 17 years with a consistency in upscale dining and this weekend it's no different.

The eclectic of a modern and a traditional New England fish house style appeal and the open-view kitchen and large raw bar décor adds to the thrill. The special menu this weekend, is deep down delicious seafood that is what most are craving for and that is exactly what you will get. Don't just take our word for it, if you visit TripAdvisor you will see what repeaters are raving about. Welcome to the one of the most recommended through word of mouth seafood restaurants by our decade long loyal island visitors.

### Taste Of Aruba

This holiday weekend the 24th and 25th of January 2020, Aqua Grill is inviting locals and tourists alike to come and taste our amazing special menu prepared our local catch of the day and a slightly mix of international touch. The appetizer is a traditional local fish patty pan-seared and garnished with sweet plantain with pickled red onion and the entre will be a pan-fried snapper or grouper served with pan bati, funchi and crioyo sauce on the side. If you're tempted to try a local dish, you can't miss this invitation. Not to mention our extensive wine list of over one hundred selected choices that pares perfectly with our special menu. Many locals and visitors are already frequent repeat guests, thus we are convinced you will join that group after your first dinner experience.

Make sure you have your table reserved to experience an amazing night, where you are being pampered in an exceptional culinary way with many delicious entrée and desserts to choose from. Reservations can be made through their website at [www.aqua-grill.com/reservation/](http://www.aqua-grill.com/reservation/) or by giving them a call at +297 586-5900.

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PRESENTS

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## Arte Sano Foundation: Creative Expression for A change of Life

**ORANJESTAD —** Arte Sano Foundation believes in social transformation, creating beauty and changing lives. Founder Claudia Nooren Ruiz-Vasquez works with students from the local correction institute K.I.A. and students with drug and/or alcohol addictions on a vocational training base. **“We strive to bring back dignity by creating art.”**

Arte Sano Foundation is a non-profit organization established in 2012. The name, freely translated, means ‘art is healthy’ and that is the main focus: the powerful healing potential of useful work and creative self-expression of the arts. The empowerment of vulnerable people in Aruba’s community. Homeless, addicts, youth in prison, youth drop outs and guardianship are the target groups.


The products vary and include paintings, lithography’s, recycled wood items, recycled material, textile bags, driftwood, jewelry and t-shirts, all items that are a good memory to Aruba and with the awareness that they are created by vulnerable locals. The goal is to promote economic development through job creation and vocational training. Claudia: “Many people have someone they know or love that struggles in life with addiction challenges or wrong choices. We aim to break stigmas and give second chances. Everybody deserves that. Aruba has a colorful mix of people that are extremely creative.”

The foundation’s studio/workshop place is inspired on the Bauhaus movement in Europe and the Arts & Crafts Movement in the US. “Our curriculum is based on the natural and cultural heritage of Aruba. The students create unique souvenirs, each with a detailed explanation of their story behind it.”


For more information please visit Facebook Arte Sano Foundation. □



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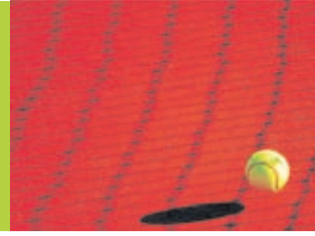
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# SPORTS



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (23) dunks with no one around defending him during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the New York Knicks in New York, Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2020.

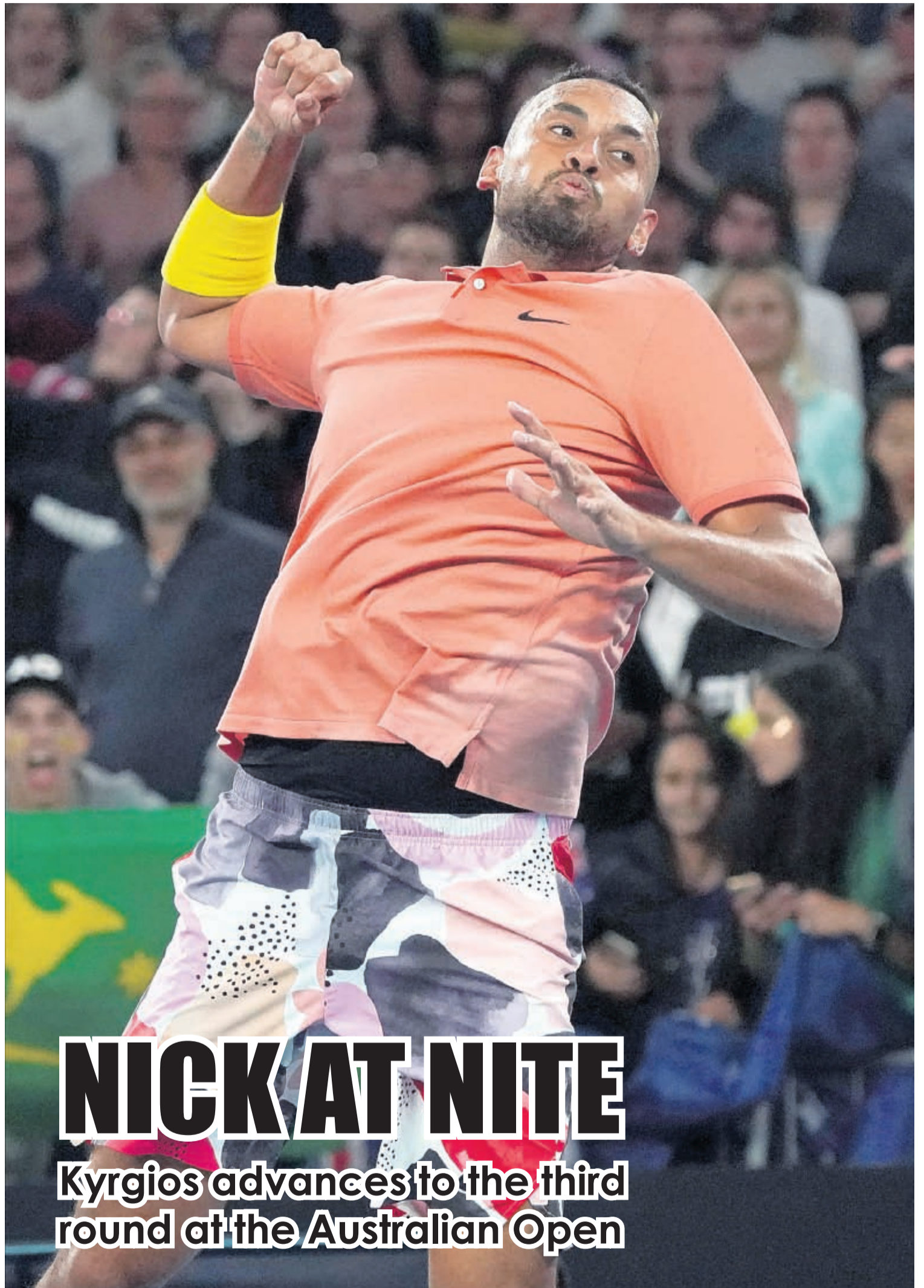
Associated Press

## Rematch! James, Giannis are All-Star captains again

MIAMI (AP) — It'll be an All-Star rematch: Team LeBron vs. Team Giannis.

LeBron James of the Los Angeles Lakers and Giannis Antetokounmpo of the Milwaukee Bucks will be the captains for the NBA All-Star Game, just as they were last season. They earned the captaincies by being the top overall vote-getters from the Western and Eastern Conferences, respectively. The other starters for the Feb. 16 game in Chicago: Anthony Davis of the Los Angeles Lakers, Kawhi Leonard of the Los Angeles Clippers, Luka Doncic of the Dallas Mavericks, James Harden of the Houston Rockets, Pascal Siakam of the Toronto Raptors, Joel Embiid of the Philadelphia 76ers, Kemba Walker of the Boston Celtics and Trae Young of the Atlanta Hawks.

Continued on Page 20



## NICK AT NITE Kyrgios advances to the third round at the Australian Open

Australia's Nick Kyrgios celebrates after defeating France's Gilles Simon in their second round singles match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 23, 2020.

Associated Press  
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# Woods opens with 69 at Torrey North to start new year

**SAN DIEGO (AP)** — Tiger Woods had his lowest opening round of the year since 2011. It wasn't enough to be among the leaders Thursday at the Farmers Insurance Open, but it was fine with him.

Coming off his record-tying 82nd victory in his last PGA Tour start three months ago in Japan, Woods handled the par 5s on the easier North Course at Torrey Pines and limited mistakes for a 3-under 69.

Sebastian Cappelen and Keegan Bradley had the low scores of the opening round, which was not the same as sharing the lead. Cappelen had eight birdies for a 66 on the South Course, which played about three shots tougher than the North, where Bradley shot his 66.

Rory McIlroy, who played in the group in front of Woods, was among those at 67. Jon Rahm, playing alongside Woods, was in the large group at 68.

Woods hasn't broken 70 in his first round of the year since a 69 on the North at Torrey in 2011. His health, his game and even his momentum are in much better shape now. His game wasn't all that far off.

"It was nice to kind of keep the round going a little bit," Woods said. "Overall, pleased to shoot something in the 60s today."

It took a little time to get going. He left himself in a bad shot right of the green on the par-5 10th to start his round and failed to make



**Tiger Woods hits out of the bunker on the eleventh hole of the North Course at Torrey Pines Golf Course during the first round of the Farmers Insurance golf tournament, Thursday, Jan. 23, 2020, in San Diego.**

birdie. His flop shot from 50 yards short of the green on the next hole came up short and into a bunker, leading to a bogey. He was even par at the turn on a course where lower scores are expected.

Even so, there was little drama. The best views were of the still waters of the Pacific below on a magnificent day. The biggest roars, as usual, belonged to the Navy jets above.

Woods kept it simple, with a nifty wedge to short range on his 10th hole, a two-putt birdie from 18 feet on the par-5 fifth and an easy up-and-down for birdie on the final hole.

"I could probably, maybe

could have gotten one or two more out of my round today," Woods said. "But overall, I felt like it was a good start, especially going into the South Course. I don't know what the guys did on the South Course in relation to the North, but I felt like the golf course was certainly gettable today." Bubba Watson had a 67 on the South, while three other players broke 70 on the South, which hosted the U.S. Open in 2008 and gets another U.S. Open next year.

Woods has won this event seven times, not including his 2008 U.S. Open title or the Junior World when he was a teenager. At stake

this week is a chance to set the PGA Tour career victories record with No. 83 on the first course where his father took him to watch a PGA Tour event.

Rahm, who got married in Spain before Christmas and has another wedding in San Diego next month for his bride's American family and friends, was 4 under through eight holes until he stalled.

Along for the ride was Collin Morikawa, who wasn't even born when Woods made his pro debut. The 22-year-old Morikawa shot 70.

"I had to tell to tell myself to just focus on golf after that first hole because I could

just focus on Tiger and watch him the entire day and realize I forgot how to play golf," Morikawa said. "And that's what I'm out here to do, I'm out here to win. It's really cool to play with him finally and to get a round in with him because crowds are different.

"There's just nothing like it. You can't describe it."

McIlroy, who has never won in his first event of the year, can return to No. 1 in the world for the first time in more than four years by winning. He also handled the par 5s by making birdie on all of them, along with adding three birdies.

McIlroy has a new driver in play, which didn't feel right to him during the pro-am. He spent Wednesday afternoon making some adjustments and seemed to be on track.

"It's funny, you go through that testing process at the start of the year with new equipment. There's things that seem really good on the range, but once you actually play some rounds with them competitively and try to hit certain shots, things sort of appear," McIlroy said. "We seemed to have fixed it."

Cappelen, a rookie from Denmark, was doing his own thing away from the crowd, narrowly dodging the fog that rolled in late in the afternoon, and he was doing it well.

"I never really put me in a terrible spot where I couldn't make par," he said. □

**Associated Press**

# Jessica Korda shoots 66, takes 2-shot lead in Boca Raton

**BOCA RATON, Fla. (AP)** — Jessica Korda shot a 6-under 66 in high wind Thursday to take the first-round lead in the Gainbridge LPGA at Boca Rio, the tour's first full-field event of the season and first official event in Boca Raton in more than 30 years.

Korda birdied her final two holes, finishing with a 25-foot putt on the par-4 ninth at Boca Rio Golf Club. The 26-year-old Florida player had eight birdies — converting on all four par-5

holes — and two bogeys. From Bradenton, the five-time LPGA Tour winner is staying at home this week.

"It's beautiful to be able to drive to a tournament," Korda said. "Doesn't happen that often, at least in my own car. So yeah, it's been really nice. And I'm staying at home this week, which is even nicer."

"It's kind of weird actually staying at home because I don't really know what to do. It's not like a hotel room where everything

is like everything is in its space and you only bring a certain amount of things. All of a sudden I have all these options. I don't really know what to do with that right now, but I'm still trying to prepare the way that I would in the hotel."

Play was suspended because of darkness with 12 players unable to finish the round. Heavy rain delayed play for nearly 40 minutes late in the afternoon.

Tour rookies Yui Kawamoto of Japan and Patty Tav-

atanakit of Thailand were two strokes back with South Korea's Sei Young Kim.

"I've been prepping for a moment like this, so I'm very happy with it," Kawamoto said. "I feel comfortable that I was able to play like this. I feel like I was able to prove that I can play here. My goal is to play four days."

Tavatanakit won three times last year on the Symetra Tour.

"I've been waiting to come out here for three months,

since the start of the off-season, which was kind of stressful," Tavatanakit said.

"I was a little intimidated by the idea of the LPGA Tour and being out here, the transition from the Symetra Tour and three rounds to just a different environment, everyone takes it seriously out here. After I cut out those thoughts and focused on what I have to do, it has been working pretty well." Carlota Ciganda, Xiyu Lin and Lindsey Weaver shot 69. □

# Kyrgios barks, mocks his way to Australian Open's 3rd round

**MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)** — Love him or hate him -- and make no mistake, there are plenty in each camp -- Nick Kyrgios never allows for a dull moment when he's on a tennis court, whether it's shot selection, showmanship, momentum swings, barking at his entourage or mocking another player not even involved in the match at hand. All of the above happened during his ever-eventful 6-2, 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 victory over Gilles Simon in the Australian Open's second round Thursday night. That included a moment when Kyrgios — currently on six months' probation from the ATP for verbally abusing tennis officials — poked fun at the man he might meet in the fourth round, Rafael Nadal. After being warned for taking more than the allotted 25 seconds between serves, Kyrgios mimicked how Nadal fidgets before a point, as if to remind the chair umpire that there are folks who more egregiously waste time. When a reporter asked Nadal about Kyrgios' imitation of the 19-time major champion, the Spaniard replied: "I really don't care. I'm here to play tennis." About the only boring segment of the proceedings came during the in-stadium interview, when an allusion was made to later rounds and Kyrgios, an Australian seeded 23rd, told the Melbourne Arena crowd, "I'm not thinking ahead. ... I'm just taking it one match at a time at the moment." Zzzzzzz. After Kyrgios wrapped up, the No. 1-seeded Nadal was still in the early stages of what became a 6-3, 7-6 (4), 6-1 win against Federico Delbonis over at Rod Laver Arena. Those results were the most intriguing of Day 4 at the year's first Grand Slam tournament, especially given the distaste Kyrgios and Nadal have for each other in a raucous rivalry that provided one of the highlights of Wimbledon in 2019.

Never too early to begin pondering a meeting with a quarterfinal berth at stake during Week 2 in Melbourne, with the popular Nadal facing the home-backed Kyrgios. For that to materialize, Kyrgios first needs to beat No. 16 Karen Khachanov of Russia on Saturday, when Nadal plays No. 27 Pablo Carreno Busta in an all-Spanish matchup. A massive overnight storm blew dirt all over town, turning the Yarra River brown and leaving traces of red dust on the blue courts Thursday. The playing surfaces required power washing, which delayed the start of action on some outside courts for more than four hours. Among the noteworthy winners were U.S. Open runner-up Daniil Medvedev, who took a medical timeout because of a nosebleed late in the second set of his 7-5, 6-1, 6-3 victory over Spanish qualifier Pedro Martinez, along with two-time French Open finalist Dominic Thiem, No. 7 Alexander Zverev, No. 10 Gael Monfils and a trio of women who have been ranked No. 1 and own Grand Slam titles: Simona Halep, Angelique Kerber and Garbiñe Muguruza. Nothing captivated a crowd quite like Kyrgios did against Simon, a 35-year-old from France who is ranked 61st. Not all for good reasons, though. Yes, Kyrgios delighted the fans with his between-the-legs shots and his booming serves -- to the tune of 28 aces, including one at 136 mph to end the match. He also probably made them nervous with the way he seemed to completely give away the third set after twice being a single point from serving for the win, holding break chances while already leading 4-2. Kyrgios dropped the last four games of that set, no longer showing the patience in baseline exchanges that helped build

a lead in the first place. There also were the consecutive double-faults that allowed Simon to get to 4-call with his first break of the match. That was part of a stretch in which Kyrgios veered off course for quite a while. The talented 24-year-old went from a total of 10 unforced errors over the first couple of sets to 30 over the next two. During the changeover before the fourth set, Kyrgios expressed his displeasure with the sort of support he was getting from his group in the audience — which included former No. 1 Lleyton Hewitt — sarcastically huffing: "So creative.□"



Australia's Nick Kyrgios makes a backhand return to France's Gilles Simon during their second round singles match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 23, 2020.

Associated Press

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**Continued from Page 17**  
James, as the leading overall vote-getter, will have the top pick when he and Antetokounmpo pick their teams; Antetokounmpo will pick first in the second round, when the reserves are chosen. James is a starter for the 16th time, an NBA record. Being a 16-time All-Star also puts him third on the all-time appearance list, behind 19-time selection Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and 18-time selection Kobe Bryant. James received 6,275,459 fan votes, edging Doncic for the West captain's spot by 163,724 votes. James has been a captain all three years of this format being in place by the NBA; Team LeBron beat Team Giannis last year, and Team LeBron beat Team Stephen Curry in 2018. Antetokounmpo received 5,902,286 votes, easily the most in the race to be the captain from the East. Embiid got the second-most votes in the East, at 3.1 million and barely half of An-

tetokounmpo's total. Fan voting, the NBA said, was up 7% from last year. Having the 21-year-old Young and the 20-year-old Doncic starting gives the NBA two starters those ages or younger for only the second time. The other was in 1998, when a 19-year-old Bryant and a 21-year-old Kevin Garnett got starter nods. "It's an indescribable feeling," Young said in a statement released by the Hawks. "After watching and admiring all these guys in the league growing up, I am truly humbled to be in this position." The reserves will be announced Jan. 31, with NBA head coaches doing the voting for those. James and Antetokounmpo will pick their teams on Feb. 6, first splitting up the eight remaining starters and then choosing from the pool of 14 reserves. The starters were chosen through a formula that gave 50% of the weight to fan votes, 25% to player votes and 25% to voting

done by a panel of 100 media members. For the most part, the fans got who they wanted. The three frontcourt selections from the East and West mirrored the fan voting, as did the West guards. The only exception was among East guards: Young was the fans' top pick, while Brooklyn's Kyrie Irving was second among fans and Walker was third. Walker, however, was the top East guard choice among media and NBA players. Irving was sixth in both of those tallies, enough to drop his total score below Walker. Young bucked some trends as far as getting his All-Star starting spot. He entered Thursday as the third-leading scorer in the NBA at 29.2 points per game, behind only Harden's 36.6 and Antetokounmpo's 30.0. But the Hawks are only 11-34 entering Thursday, and it is unusual for a player on a team at the bottom of the league or with a winning percentage under .250 to



**Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo is fouled by Boston Celtics' Daniel Theis during the first half of an NBA basketball game Thursday, Jan. 16, 2020, in Milwaukee.**

**Associated Press**

get an All-Star nod. The last time it happened was 2016, with good reason. The Lakers were 11-44 and Bryant was a starter (and the leading votegetter) anyway, largely be-

cause that was his final season in the NBA. NBA players cast votes for 292 of their colleagues as potential starters. Media members voted for a total of 26 different players.

# Williamson's 22 in debut not enough for Pelicans vs. Spurs

By **BRETT MARTEL**  
AP Sports Writer

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** — Zion Williamson scored the final point of his first NBA regular season game as a packed and standing crowd belted out chants of "M-V-P!" Then the NBA's No. 1 overall draft pick went to the bench — as mandated by medical staff — and watched the game slip away from the Pelicans while unheeded chants of, "We want Zion!" echoed around the Smoothie King Center.

Williamson capped his long-awaited NBA debut by scoring 17 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter and stirring the crowd into a frenzy — but the savvy and composed San Antonio Spurs weathered the surge for a 121-117 victory Wednesday night.

The celebrated rookie out of Duke, whose maiden regular season appearance was delayed three months by arthroscopic surgery on his right knee, said watching the final five minutes from the bench out of caution was "very hard."

"I'm 19, honestly. In that moment, I'm not thinking about longevity," Williamson continued. "I'm thinking about winning that game, so it was very tough."

LaMarcus Aldridge had 32 points and 14 rebounds, DeMar DeRozan added 20 points, and the San Antonio

Spurs withstood Williamson's late surge for a 121-117 victory over New Orleans on Wednesday night.

"The crowd got into it. We didn't let it rattle us," DeRozan said, adding that Williamson "went on a hell of a run."

"It was great that we held our composure, executed when we needed to, and came up with stops when we needed to," DeRozan added.

With Spurs coach Gregg Popovich sending double-teams at Williamson, the rookie struggled to find his shot during the first three quarters. When the fourth quarter began, he had just five points, four rebounds, an assist and four turnovers in a little less than 12 minutes.

But when the 6-foot-6, 285-pound Williamson found himself open for a straight-on 3 with about nine minutes to go, he let it fly and it went down, infusing the stadium with energy. He followed that up with a torrid three-minute stretch in which he laid in an alley-oop lob, put back a missed shot with a reverse layup and hit three more 3s. Williamson wasn't known for shooting 3s when he starred at Duke. He was so often able to dominate inside. But Williamson noted that his long rehabilitation probably helped him refine his outside shot.



**New Orleans Pelicans forward Zion Williamson (1) goes to the basket against San Antonio Spurs center Jakob Poeltl (25) in the second half of an NBA basketball game in New Orleans, Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2020. The Spurs won 121-117.**

Associated Press

"When you're not able to move around and do athletic movements for a while, the only thing you can do is just shoot spot-up jumpers, I guess that was the result of that."

His teammates loved it.

"The first one, I was like, 'All right. Cool,'" guard Jrue Holiday said. "Then the second three I was like, 'All right, boy, you've been practicing.' And the third one, and from that point on, the energy was crazy."

Williamson came into the game knowing his playing time would be limited — even though he started. He

had played a total of 18:18 when he was subbed out for good with the Pelicans — who trailed by 12 to start the final period — down 109-108.

Soon after, DeRozan began San Antonio's decisive surge with a finger roll and pull-up jumper. Aldridge followed with a tip-in and jumper shortly after.

New Orleans got as close as 119-117 on Josh Hart's 3, but Aldridge responded with two free throws and the Spurs did not give up another basket.

"I was really proud of our guys," Popovich said. "We

took a huge blow. We stayed the course and just played."

Brandon Ingram scored 22 for New Orleans but missed 16 of 22 shots, while Lonzo Ball had 14 points and 12 assists.

Williamson entered the Smoothie King Center wearing a black suit with a blue design and blue basketball sneakers. Written in pink on the black T-shirt he wore under his sport coat was the expression, "Let's Dance," which was his message to New Orleans the night the Pelicans drafted him. □

## 4-time All-Star Alana Beard retires from WNBA after 15 years

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Alana Beard, a two-time Defensive Player of the Year who won a WNBA championship with the Los Angeles Sparks, is retiring after 15 years. In 2016, she helped the Sparks win a third WNBA title. She is third in all-time steals in the league with 710. Beard won Defensive Player of the Year honors in 2017 and '18.

She also played for the Washington Mystics. The Sparks announced her decision Thursday. Team

managing partner and governor Eric Holoman thanked Beard for what he called her "historic contributions" to the franchise and the league.

The guard-forward from Shreveport, Louisiana, was a four-time All-Star.

"I am so grateful for the many years I've been able to play the game I love, for the amazing players I've had the opportunity to play with and compete against, and for the tremendous fans I've been

lucky enough to play in front of," Beard said. "I am excited for my next chapter and ready to pursue my next career. I look forward to using my platform to create opportunities for the communities that supported me throughout my journey, women and people of color."

Beard had career averages of 11.3 points, 3.4 rebounds, 2.5 assists and 1.7 steals, while shooting 43% from the field. She started 402 of 419 regular-season



**In this Aug. 14, 2019, file photo, Los Angeles Sparks' Alana Beard drives to the basket during a WNBA basketball game against the Dallas Wings in Arlington, Texas.**

Associated Press

games and made 42 play-off appearances.

Beard was taken second overall in the 2004 WNBA Draft by the Mystics. She

attended Duke, where she became the first NCAA player to score 2,600 points, dish out 500 assists and record 400 steals. □



Philadelphia Flyers' Jakub Voracek, center, celebrates with Matt Niskanen, right, and Joel Farabee after scoring a goal during the second period of an NHL hockey game against the Pittsburgh Penguins, Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

## Most dangerous lead in hockey? This season, it's all of them

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**

Joel Quenneville remembers years past when NHL teams leading going into the third period could feel comfortable chalking up two points. A win was a pretty sure bet.

Earlier this season, his Florida Panthers erased a four-goal deficit to win a game. And then they did it again. Even the three-time Stanley Cup-winning coach didn't see that coming.

"We didn't envision coming back either game," Quenneville said.

It's becoming easier than ever to envision. There have already been five four-goal comeback wins this season, tied for the most in NHL history. And the 18 three-goal comebacks are the most through the same number of games in 30 years.

No lead is safe.

"Used to be the dreaded, two-goal lead is the most dangerous in hockey, but now it seems like the four-goal lead's the hardest one to hold on to," Tampa Bay Lightning coach Jon Cooper said. "Teams believe they can come back at any time."

Coaches and players point to a number of different factors for all the

rallying going on, ranging from rules designed to create more offense to better power plays, more skill and talent, and human nature when it comes to holding a comfortable lead or facing a difficult deficit.

"It's very difficult to hold leads now just with some of the rules that have been added," said coach Todd Reirden, whose Washington Capitals recently erased a three-goal deficit to beat the New York Islanders. "Just different little nuances that have helped scoring increase in the league. It's just the way that penalties are called, too, and the league wants offense and they love that aspect of teams coming from behind like that."

Those rules include more penalties called for obstructing, hooking, holding and slashing and increased advantages on faceoffs for the offensive team. Just like the standings that are set up to be neck-and-neck down the stretch to the playoffs, the modern game is designed for no team to be out of a game.

When David Quinn's New York Rangers went down 4-0 at Montreal this season, the second-year coach considered it a little unfair

based on their effort. They won 6-5 in regulation.

"One of the things we talked about in between the first and second period was: 'Don't play the score. If you do the right thing over and over again, the game will reward you,'" Quinn recalled. "And I thought that's what happened. Within a game, you've got to be mentally tough, and you're going to have to have resiliency."

See the Panthers, who stunned Anaheim and Boston with those four-goal comebacks. Quenneville has been behind an NHL bench for a long time and doesn't have a scientific explanation for this phenomenon. "You get a fortunate break on a bounce here, and it can really shift the momentum," Quenneville said. "There's been a lot of offense in this year's game, teams going for it. You've got a 4-0 lead, whether you take your foot off the pedal and all of a sudden you maybe relax a little bit, but the other team's pressing, they're pinching, they're taking more offensive zone chances and thinking that way. You get a couple of breaks and all of a sudden, the other team's on their heels." □

## Major League Baseball to sponsor U.S. Olympic softball team

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Major League Baseball is using its financial muscle to support the U.S. women's softball team, which already is assured a spot in the Tokyo Olympics while the American men's baseball team struggles to qualify. MLB announced an agreement Thursday to become presenting sponsor of the women's "Stand Beside Her" tour, a slate of exhibition games leading up to the Olympic tournament from July 22-28.

"We're both bat and ball sports. Even though we're not the same sport, there are so many similarities that you just can't ignore," said Kim Ng, MLB's senior vice president for baseball operations. "It was important for us to make sure that they have this acknowledgment and recognition of their ability and their talent."

Softball began as an Olympic sport for the 1996 Atlanta Games. The U.S. won gold medals in 1996, 2000 and 2004 with players that included Dot Richardson, Jennie Finch and Jessica Mendoza, then lost to Japan in the 2008 gold medal game. Baseball and softball were dropped for the next two Olympics, then restored for this year, when the U.S. and Japan will be joined by Australia, Canada, Italy and Mexico for games in Fukushima and Yokohama but not Tokyo. The sports are likely to be dropped for 2024 in Paris but could return four years later in Los Angeles.

The U.S. men's baseball team stumbled in its first attempt to qualify, wasting a ninth-inning lead against Mexico in the final game of the Premier12 tournament in November and losing in the 10th. The U.S. has two more chances to join Israel, Japan, Mexico and South Korea in the Olympic field: an Americas tournament in

Arizona from March 22-26 and a final tournament in Taiwan from April 1-5.

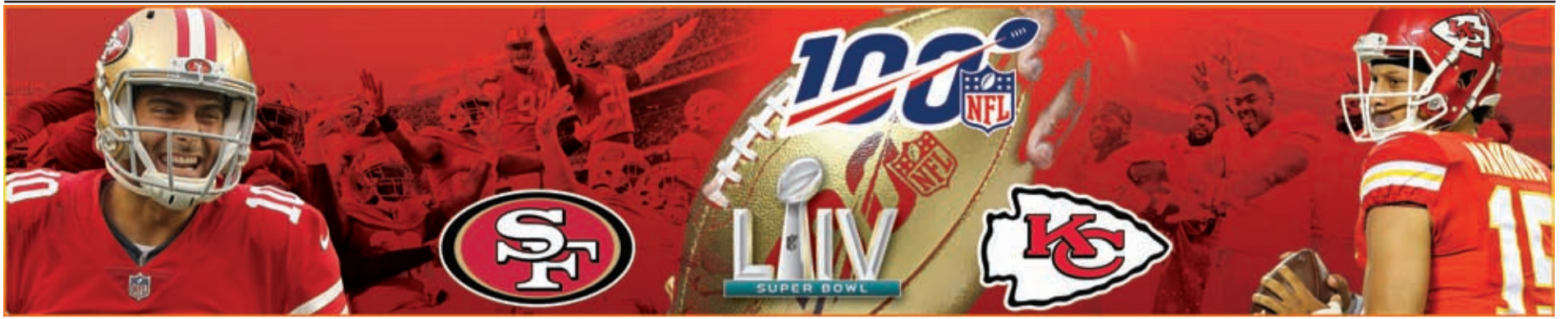
MLB is not allowing players on 40-man big league rosters to compete in qualifying, and few top pitching prospects were at the November tournament.

Softball has no such issues. The Olympics are the sport's highest-profile event.

"The platform for us is 10 times bigger," American outfielder Haylie McClelleny said. "For us, it's a great opportunity for people that have never watched softball before, people that have only followed it at the collegiate level, to really see how fun our game is to watch, how pure it is. If people are baseball fans, I guarantee they're going to love softball because it's pretty much just a faster game — it's shorter, it's quicker, it's more entertaining to watch, in my opinion."

The 2008 gold medal softball game took 1 hour, 45 minutes — less than half the 3:45 average for this year's World Series.

As part of the deal with MLB, the softball team's official training facility will be at the Jackie Robinson Training Complex in Vero Beach, Florida, the old Dodgertown spring training camp. MLB Network will include programming from the tour, which currently starts Feb. 4 in Tampa, Florida, and has about three dozen stops. The U.S. women's soccer team has attracted huge television audiences. MLB sees softball as an opportunity for the sport's growth. "These are world-class athletes," Ng said. "Because we have not been in the Olympics for the last 12 years, they just haven't had that stage. So it's really important at this point that we show as much support as we can for them." □



## Suggs aiming for Super Bowl after joining Chiefs last month

By **DAVE SKRETTA**  
AP Sports Writer

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)** —

There was a moment during practice last week, while the Kansas City Chiefs were prepping for their AFC title game against Tennessee, that caused linebackers coach Matt House to seek out defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo.

It had to do with pass rusher Terrell Suggs, and it was just too good to let go.

"He said, 'Wow, T-Suggs was just over there talking about this technique we do and he just put on a clinic,'" Spagnuolo recalled Thursday afternoon. "All the linebackers, nobody said anything. They just watched." Surprising given that Suggs has only been with the Chiefs for about a month.

Not at all surprising given that the 17-year veteran has earned his stripes during a long career spent primarily with the Baltimore Ravens, where he not only reached the Super Bowl but won it after the 2012 season. In a strange coincidence, the opponent happened to be the San Francisco 49ers, whom Kansas City will face in Miami in less than two weeks.

This is exactly what Suggs hoped for when the Arizona Cardinals waived him late in the season.

The Chiefs had just lost their second defensive end to a season-ending injury, and they were desperate for some help to pair with pass rusher Frank Clark. They never could have guessed it would come in the form of a former All-Pro and seven-time Pro Bowl selection who had 138 sacks and more postseason experience than anyone on their

roster.

There were reports that Suggs was initially skeptical of joining the Chiefs, preferring instead to return to the Ravens and help them down the stretch. But all it took was a look at the roster — quarterback Patrick Mahomes, wide receiver Tyreek Hill and tight end Travis Kelce on offense, and Clark and safety Tyrann Mathieu on defense — and an honest, heart-to-heart talk with coach Andy Reid to convince T-Sizzle to bring his, well, sizzle to the AFC West champions.

"It didn't take much convincing," Suggs said. "This team is pretty vet-savvy. Having been in this position a few times, you learn more from failure than you ever would from success. I think that the things that have happened in years past kind of prepared this team for the task that it took. It also doesn't hurt to have the reigning MVP, and definitely the best tight end in the game, on your team. Once they got rolling and clicking on all cylinders, we got to have fun out there." Indeed, it didn't take long for Suggs to get rolling. He joined the team early in Week 16 and played about a quarter of the defensive snaps in a win at Chicago. He upped that number to about half the following week against the Chargers, when a win by the Chiefs coupled with a loss by the Patriots gave the No. 2 seed and a first-round playoff bye.

Suggs has continued to play about the same amount the past two weeks, helping to corral Texans quarterback Deshaun Watson in the divisional round and

shut down Titans running back Derrick Henry in the AFC title game.

His value doesn't just lie between the sidelines, though.

It lies on the sideline.

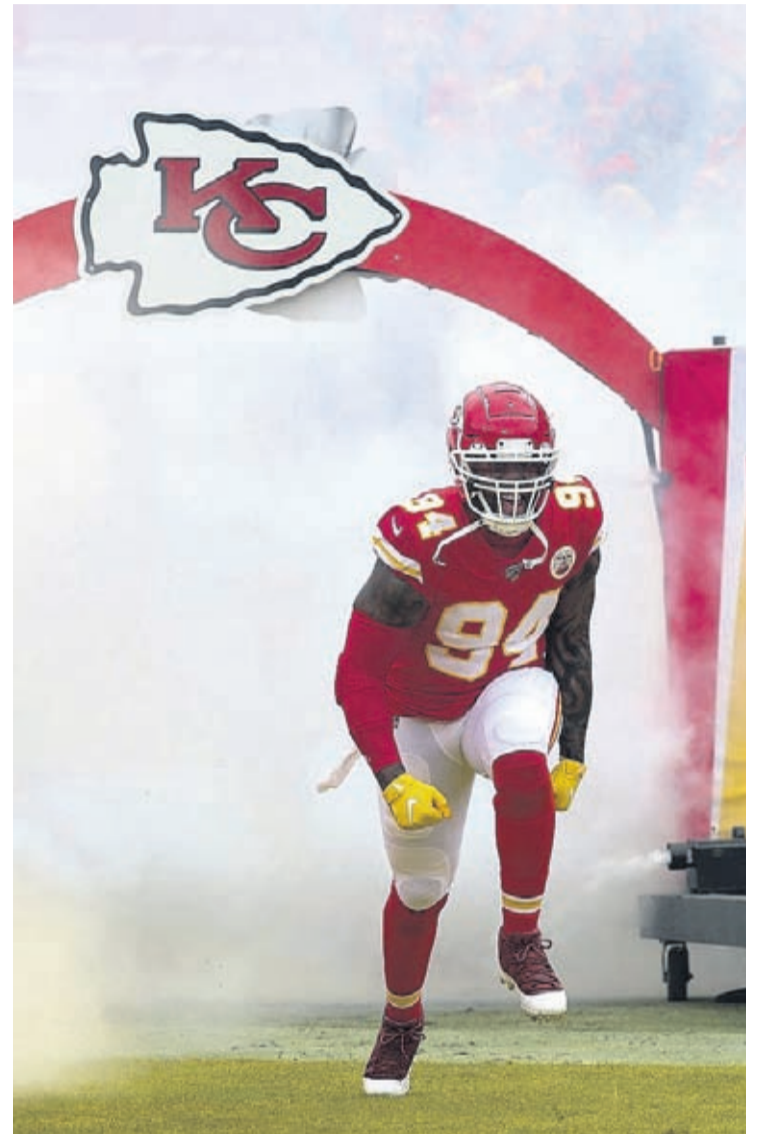
The 37-year-old Suggs has seen just about everything during the course of his career, and he's eager to pass along that knowledge to the next generation. The scene that played out at practice last week was but one example of Suggs taking a defensive player — or a bunch of them, in that case — to the side and giving them some pointers that often resonate with players far more than if they were coming from a coach.

"He's a true veteran," Mathieu said. "I think he has a lot of that championship swagger. He comes to work every day. Always taking notes. I can remember a few plays in the (Texans) game where he was scrapping down the ball and looks 28."

After the Chiefs took care of the Titans last weekend, Suggs became the go-to player in the locker room for tips on dealing with the Super Bowl, whether it was the daunting crush of media obligations, the countless friends and families trying to get tickets or secure flights, or the actual challenge of preparing for the biggest game in professional football.

"Just talking to those guys and seeing what the week is like, first of all," Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes said. "It helps to have those guys and their experiences to understand what we're getting into and what to expect."

As for Suggs, he never could



**Kansas City Chiefs outside linebacker Terrell Suggs (94) celebrates as he enters the field prior to an NFL divisional playoff game against the Houston Texans, Sunday, Jan. 12, 2020 in Kansas City.**

Associated Press

have pictured himself playing in another Super Bowl when he was struggling through the season in Arizona a few months ago, or even when he joined the Chiefs midway through last month.

"It's definitely one of the most humbling feelings to be a part of," he said. "I'm very fortunate to be a part of it."

NOTES: Kelce and SS Jordan Lucas did not practice Thursday because of an illness. ... The Chiefs will practice on Friday before getting Saturday off to take care of travel preparations. They head to Miami on Sunday. ... Spagnuolo, who twice was the defensive coordinator for the New York

Giants and later served as interim coach, said he had "just good thoughts" when asked about QB Eli Manning's retirement. "I think the world of Eli. I'm happy for him," Spagnuolo said. "Had a tremendous career. I was lucky to be with him and share in the ultimate moment, so I wish him the best." □





This undated image provided by Cruise shows a rendering of an unorthodox electric vehicle called "Origin," being developed by GM's Cruise subsidiary.

Associated Press

## GM's Cruise heads down new road with new robotaxi concept

General Motors' self-driving car company will attempt to deliver on its long-running promise to provide a more environmentally friendly ride-hailing service in an unorthodox vehicle designed to eliminate the need for human operators to transport people around crowded cities.

The service still being developed by GM's Cruise subsidiary will rely on a boxy, electric-powered vehicle called "Origin" that was unveiled late Tuesday in San Francisco amid much fanfare. It looks like a cross between a mini-van and sports utility vehicle with one huge exception — it won't have any steering wheel or brakes. The Origin will accommodate up to four passengers at a time, although a single customer will be able to summon it for a ride just as people already can ask for a car with a human behind the wheel from Uber or Lyft.

For all the hype surrounding the Origin's unveiling, Cruise omitted some key details, including when its ride-hailing service will be available and how many of the vehicles will be in its fleet.

The company indicated it will initially only be available in San Francisco, where Cruise has already been offering a ride-hailing service that's only available to its roughly 1,000 employ-

ees. By eliminating the need for a human to drive, Cruise theoretically will be able to offer a less expensive way to get around — a goal already being pursued by self-driving car pioneer Waymo, a Google spinoff that has been testing robotaxis in the Phoenix area for nearly three years. Cruise had planned to have a robotaxi service consisting of Chevrolet Bolts working without human backup drivers by the end of 2019, but moved away from that last year after one of Uber's autonomous test vehicles ran down and killed a pedestrian in the Phoenix suburb of Tempe, Arizona, during 2018.

Still aware of the fallout from that deadly crash, Cruise is promising "superhuman performance" from the Cruise, which GM hopes to manufacture at half the price of comparable vehicles using fuel-combustion engines.

GM also expects to announce where the Origin will be made within the next few weeks, Cruise CEO Dan Amman said.

The Origin won't be sold to consumers though. "It is not a product you can buy, but an experience you share," Amman said.

The Origin represents another significant step for Cruise, which had only 40 employees when GM bought it in 2016 as part of its effort to catch up in the

race to build cars that can drive themselves. Since then, Cruise has attracted more than \$6 billion from investors, including \$2.75 billion from Honda and \$2.25 billion from Japanese tech investment firm SoftBank. Honda also helped develop the Origin.

GM currently values Cruise at \$19 billion, fueling speculation that the subsidiary may eventually be spun off as a publicly traded company.

Whenever Cruise's ride-hailing service makes its debut, it will still be chasing Waymo, whose work on self-driving car technology began inside of Google more than a decade ago. Waymo's Phoenix-area service already has given more than 100,000 rides, according to the company. It expanded beyond the test phase service 13 months ago with a ride-hailing app that now has about 1,500 active monthly riders, Waymo says.

By comparison, ride-hailing leader Uber now boasts about 103 million active monthly users with a service that relies on human drivers — a dependence that is the main reason the company has been losing money throughout its history. Despite the fatal 2018 crash that stoked the public's worst fears about self-driving cars, Uber is still trying to build a fleet of robotic taxis as part of its question to become profitable. □



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By **MICHAEL LIEDTKE**  
 AP Business Writer  
 SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

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# New York City Council votes to ban cashless businesses

By **KAREN MATTHEWS**  
**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — New York City lawmakers voted Thursday to require stores and restaurants to accept cash for payment, saying businesses that accept only credit and debit cards are discriminating against New Yorkers who lack bank accounts and credit cards. "This practice punishes the underbanked," City Council Speaker Corey Johnson said before the council's 43-3 vote in favor of the bill. Under the bill, businesses that refuse cash will be fined \$1,000 for the first violation and \$1,500 after that. The measure, which is expected to go into effect by the end of the year, also prohibits stores from charging higher prices for paying in cash.

Democratic Mayor Bill de Blasio is expected to sign the legislation. A spokeswoman for the mayor said that he supports the intent of the bill but that his administration will review it.

Backers of the cashless model say the benefits include greater efficiency and eliminating the risk of theft, but opponents say millions of Americans still rely on cash.

In adopting the ban on cashless businesses, New York City joins a growing backlash against the digital-only economy. Philadelphia became the first U.S. city to ban cashless stores last year, despite opposition by retail giant Amazon. San Francisco and New Jersey passed similar measures soon after. Only one jurisdiction required businesses to accept cash before 2019: Massachusetts, which passed a law nearly 40 years ago.

Backers of the New York City bill said that hundreds of thousands of city residents don't have bank accounts or credit cards and that others simply prefer to use cash.

"Whatever your reasons, consumers should have the power to choose their

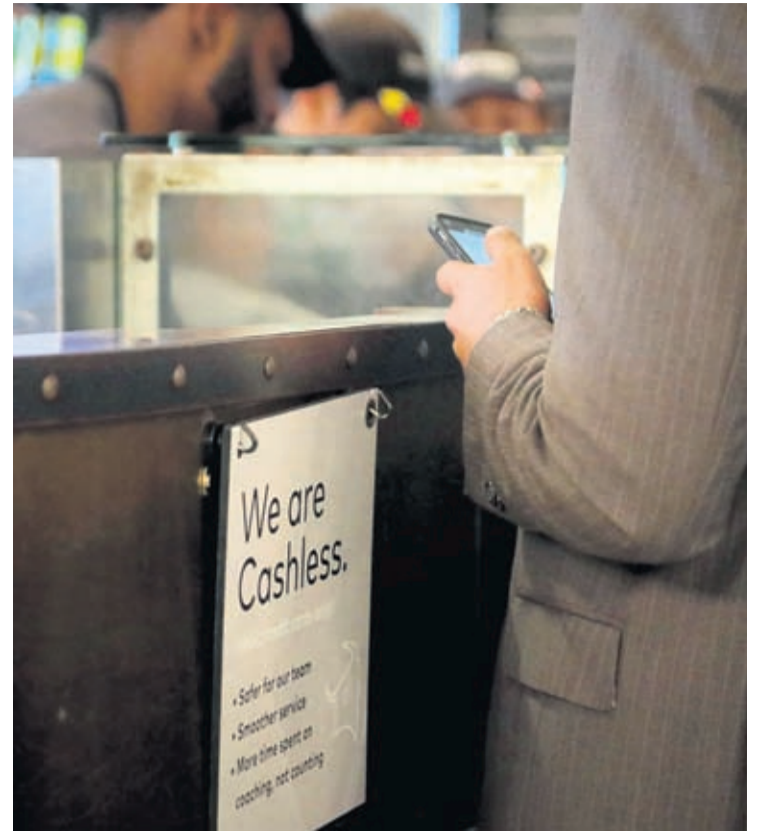
preferred method of payment," City Councilman Ritchie Torres, the Bronx Democrat who sponsored the legislation, said before the council's 43-3 vote in favor of the bill.

Councilman Kalman Yeger, a Brooklyn Democrat, said that businesses should accept cash but that the local government shouldn't force them to.

"We're inserting ourselves into the business of business in a way that we don't have a right to do in my opinion," he said in explaining his "no" vote.

But some businesses that will be affected by the no-cash ban said they will follow the law when it is enacted.

"We are proud to do business in NYC and will of course comply with all NYC laws and statutes," Nick Marsh, CEO of Founders Table, parent company of the Chopt Creative Salad Co. and Dos Toros Taqueria chains, said in a statement. A company spokeswoman



A restaurant sign alerts customers that it's now "cashless," Thursday Jan. 23, 2020, in New York.

Associated Press

said six of New York City's 18 Chopt locations and all of its 17 Dos Toros locations are currently cashless.

Mary LeSage, waiting to buy lunch at a Chopt counter in Manhattan earlier Thursday, said the cashless policy is efficient but she agrees that it might be discriminatory.

"It's an ease of use sort of

thing, to make it go faster," LeSage said. "I've seen this line go all the way around there. But on the other hand, I do think it's wrong to bar people from food because they don't have the necessary resources. If it takes me five minutes longer to get lunch, that's fine if it means everyone can get food." □

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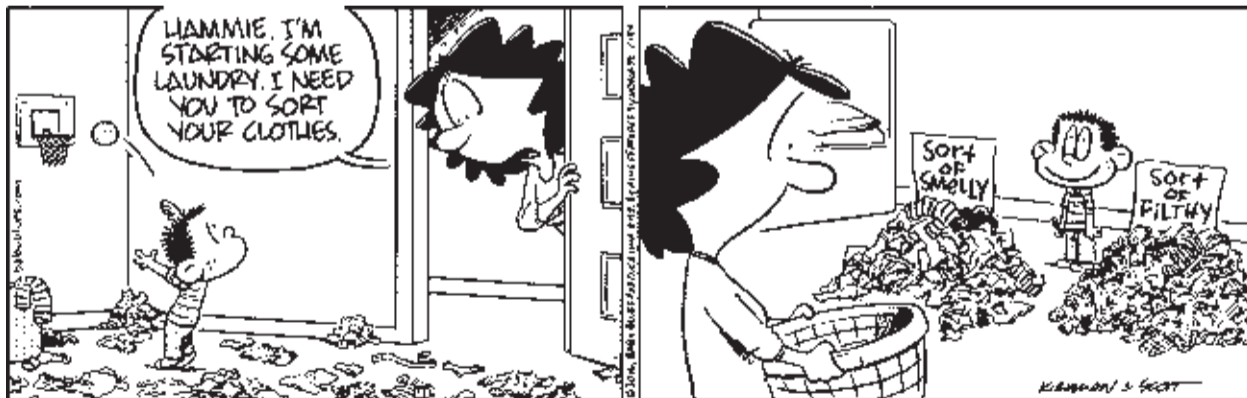
**Blondie**



**Mother Goose & Grimm**



**Baby Blues**



**Zits**



**Conceptis Sudoku**

9	7	3						
	4	7					2	5
	8		6					
	2	5		8		5		9
			6		7			
				4			7	
	6	9			8		2	
					1	5		4

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

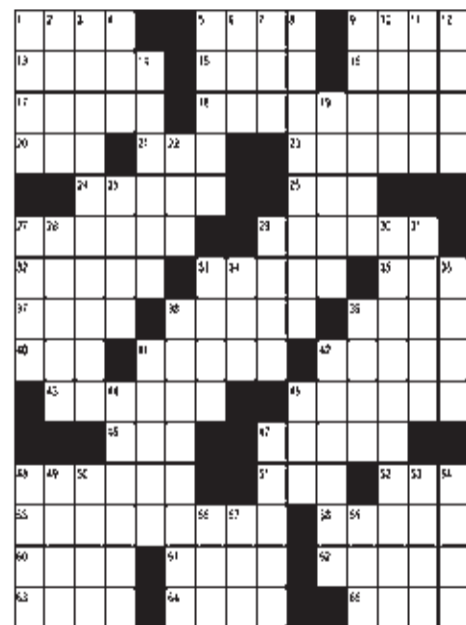
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	5	6	2	8	3	4	7	9
7	8	9	1	4	5	3	6	2
3	4	2	7	6	9	1	8	5
5	9	3	8	7	2	6	4	1
4	1	8	5	9	6	7	2	3
2	6	7	3	1	4	5	9	8
9	7	1	6	5	8	2	3	4
6	3	4	9	2	1	8	5	7
8	2	5	4	3	7	9	1	6

**ACROSS**

- 1 Sorry &
- 5 Bring critics
- 9 uniquely shaped fur
- 13 rrenque pe
- 15 Neighbor of Ecuador
- 16 Cooking herb
- 17 Give a speech
- 18 Went in again
- 20 Vom no ur
- 21 Access MacGraw
- 23 Long Is and a Puger
- 24 Shade of pink
- 25 Peter Peter pumpkin eater a wife
- 27 Was ks off with
- 29 Disavow as a e alive
- 32 outterad catoc
- 33 Pass out
- 35 Paws partner in chraze
- 37 As strong ox
- 38 Fr ar-bottomed coat
- 39 Shabby nightgus
- 40 Hoey fabric
- 41 Pack anmas
- 42 Web surfer's stops
- 43 Shrnk back in wort
- 45 Be'ing qestions
- 46 Actor Lindlen
- 47 Tree with needles & cones
- 48 They're turning! raseback snout
- 51 Bu'ing shout
- 52 Lubricate
- 55 French Italian & Ranch
- 58 Gravy
- 60 1:24-25 for one
- 61 Stangy rep'y
- 62 Elephant seen
- 63 Pacted into court
- 64 Vardi
- 65 Door unlockers



Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

**Thursday's Puzzle Solved**

COT	ARGUE	ABUT
AIRS	LEARN	NONO
PLEA	LARGE	GRIN
SEPTEMBER	ENVY	
LEGS	GAL	
UPSIDE	AGITATOR	
REINS	BLAZE	RUE
BANG	DOODGE	PITA
ACE	CANES	DATED
NEWCOMER	MISERS	
UPA	PIES	
WORD	STRANDING	
AVID	CAIRO	NEED
SELL	ULCER	GATE
PREY	SEEDS	GRAN

**DOWN**

- 1 Blood
- 2 rambus
- 3 Set free
- 4 Decompose
- 5 Spring month
- 6 Behold
- 7 Prefix for pay or teen
- 8 Daylight
- 9 Ar'cia
- 10 Bring home
- 11 Elderly
- 12 Cinnamon bear
- 14 Crept up on
- 19 Drink to
- 22 Cruces NM
- 25 \_-minded
- 27 Long-necked waterbird
- 28 More
- 29 Uses a shove
- 30 Me'ania's home
- 31 Adamant refusal
- 33 Autumn
- 34 Come-as-you-parly
- 36 Soldiers' mea
- 38 Edifice
- 39 Compact CD
- 41 and groans: compans
- 42 Achieve
- 44 Ran after
- 45 Companion
- 47 heart gets discouraged
- 48 Like hood
- 49 Wiesbaden wife
- 50 Celebration
- 53 Distasteful
- 54 More cr approximate
- 56 And not
- 57 Student's avg
- 59 Bird that swirs

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Date : 03/6 to 03/13/ 2020  
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**Divi Links Golf**  
Studio wk 7 \$1,5 K  
sleep 4 date ;02/15 to 02/22/  
2020

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2 BR Ocean View \$ 16 K  
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1 BR WK 2  
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32 weeks remain \$17 K  
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building 6 on the 4th floor  
27 weeks remain  
**Aruba Divi Phoenix**  
1 BR PH WK 8/9 \$20 K both  
14th floor 32/22 weeks remain  
1 BR WK 11  
building 7 on the 3th floor  
33 weeks remain \$15 K  
**Divi Links Golf**  
1 BR wk 1/2/3  
Birdie 2 on the 3rd floor  
25 weeks remain on each  
All 3 weeks together 30 K each

**Divi Links Golf**  
Studio WK 2 \$7.5 K  
eagle 3 with 32 weeks remain  
1 BR WK 3 \$8.5 K  
eagle 3 with 23 weeks remain  
Studio wk 5 ,7 and 8 \$8 K each  
Birdie 4 with 28/27/29 weeks  
remain  
**Divi Links Golf**  
2 BR WK 3 \$ 20 K  
Eagle 8 with 25 weeks remain  
2 BR wk 3 Lock out \$20 K  
Birdie 9 26 weeks remain

**Divi Links Golf \$8 K**  
1 Br Wk 4 Birdie 1  
19 weeks remain  
1 BR WK 6 Birdie 1 \$8 K

**Divi Village**  
1 BR WK 52/01 \$20 K both  
weeks  
3rd floor and 2nd floor  
C -Building 24 /19 weeks remain  
Studio WK 1 \$7.5 K  
Ground Floor 33 weeks remain  
**Divi Village**  
1 BR WK 1 \$8.5 K  
Studio wk 1 \$7.5 K  
building D& F 25 weeks remain  
each

**Divi Links Golf**  
Studio wk 1 \$7.5 K  
building 4 with 28 weeks remain  
**Paradise Beach Villas**  
1 BR WK 1 & 2 \$20 K both  
weeks  
2sd floor poo/ocean view  
**Divi Links Golf**  
1 BR wk 8 & 9 \$9.5 K each  
eagle 9 with 27/19 weeks  
remain

**Renaissance Suites**  
1 BR WK 9 \$9 K  
3rd floor pool/ocean view  
1 BR WK 9 \$9 K  
3 th floor harbor view  
1 BR WK 10 & 11 \$8.5 K each  
5th floor garden view  
**Eagle Resorts**  
1 BR WK 2 \$8 K  
1 BR WK 5,6,7,8  
Ground floor \$8 K each  
1 BR WK 7/8/9 \$8 K each

**Caribbean Palm Village**  
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# Researchers tie massive Pacific seabird die-off to heat wave

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)** — Common murres look like skinny penguins but fly like F-15 fighter jets.

The North Pacific seabirds can quickly cover hundreds of miles searching for schools of small forage fish. Their powerful wings let them dive more than 150 feet (46 meters) under water to gorge on capelin, sand lance, herring, sardine and juvenile pollock.

So biologists were stunned four winters ago when carcasses of emaciated common murres showed up on beaches in what they say was the largest seabird die-off recorded in the world's oceans. The die-off eventually killed an estimated 500,000 to 1 million murres from California to Alaska, eliminating 10-20% of the northeast Pacific population of the species. Seabird experts now believe they know why.

Common murres were ambushed by effects of the northeast Pacific marine heatwave dubbed "The Blob," according to a paper published Wednesday by 23 federal, university and private researchers in the science journal PLOS ONE. The heatwave lasted more than 700 days from 2014 to 2016, increasing water temperature and interrupting patterns in the food web from the smallest creatures to top predators. Forage fish — the main prey of murres — feed on zooplankton, the floating small animals that feed on plant plankton. Cold water produces the biggest, fattiest varieties of zooplankton. But the marine heatwave reduced the nutritional value of zooplankton, researchers concluded, and the lower-grade food stunted the growth of forage fish. In turn, warmer water



In this Jan. 7, 2016 file photo, dead common murres lie washed up on a rocky beach in Whittier, Alaska.

Associated Press

increased the metabolism of large fish such as Pacific cod, walleye pollock and arrowtooth flounder, requiring them to eat more forage fish.

That translated into a double whammy for murres, according to the researchers. The seabirds found that their main food source had a fraction of its usual nutrition. Murres also found themselves out-competed by large fish.

"The food just wasn't there and everybody wanted it," said lead author John Piatt, a research biologist for the U.S. Geological Survey who has studied seabird for more than 40 years. "And it just got scarcer and scarcer."

Common murres have marvelous tools for finding forage fish but have an Achilles' heel: Murres must eat 56% of their body mass every day, the equivalent of 60 to 120 finger-length forage fish. If they don't, they can starve in three to five days, Piatt said.

Murre die-offs have occurred before but never in such numbers and never across three ecosystems, Piatt said, alluding to the California Current System, the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea. Biologists with help from citizen scien-

tists counted or collected 62,000 carcasses, although Piatt says the figure represents only a fraction of the deaths because murres spend most of their time far from shore.

About two-thirds of the dead birds were adults —

and that carried ramifications for reproduction. Thirteen murre colonies in the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea, where thousands of murres gather to reproduce, experienced complete failures for at least one breeding season during or after the die-off.

Seabird experts early on suspected naturally occurring toxins played a role in the deaths. So far, there has been no evidence that anything other than starvation could explain the mass mortality, Piatt said.

Pulling together work done by oceanographers, fishery and avian disease experts and data collected by citizen scientists, Piatt and his collaborators focused on effects of the marine heat wave.

The Blob created water with surface temperatures that were more than 4 degrees (2 degrees Celsius) above normal. The heat wave extended hundreds of miles (kilometers) off shore and hundreds of feet (meters) below the surface. □

## Ancient voice: Scientists recreate sound of Egyptian mummy

**BERLIN (AP)** — Researchers say they've mimicked the voice of a 3,000-year-old Egyptian mummy by recreating much of its vocal tract using medical scanners, 3D printing and an electronic larynx.

In a paper published Thursday by the journal Scientific Reports, the authors say the technique allowed them to produce a single sound — somewhere between the vowels in 'bed' and 'bad.' The eerie tone is unlikely to be a precise reflection of the speech of Egyptian priest Nesyamun, whose

mummified body the researchers worked with, because the tongue has lost much of its bulk over three millennia.

"We have made a faithful sound for his tract in its current position, but we would not expect an exact speech match given his tongue state," said co-author David M. Howard of London's Royal Holloway college.

The model alone isn't enough to synthesize whole words or sentences, the authors said, noting that this would require the ability to calculate the audio output from the vocal tract as its shape is being changed. "But this is something that is being worked on, so it will be possible one day," said Howard.

Rudolf Hagen, an ear, nose and throat expert at the University Hospital in Wuerzburg, Germany,

who specializes in thorax reconstruction and wasn't involved in the study, expressed skepticism. Even cutting-edge medicine struggles to give living people without a thorax a "normal" voice, he said.

Co-author John Schofield, an archaeologist at the University of York, said the technique could be used to help people interpret historical heritage.

"When visitors encounter the past, it is usually a visual encounter," said Schofield. "With this voice we can change that, and make the encounter more multi-dimensional."

"There is nothing more personal than someone's voice, so we think that hearing a voice from so long ago will be an unforgettable experience, making heritage places like Karnak, Nesyamun's temple, come alive," he said. □

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## Impeachment trial not ready for broadcast prime time

By **DAVID BAUDER**  
AP Media Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The first night of arguments in favor of President Donald Trump's impeachment before the U.S. Senate was judged not ready for prime time by many of the nation's television executives.

ABC, CBS and NBC all stuck with regularly scheduled programs like "Chicago Med," "Criminal Minds" and "Modern Family" Wednesday evening instead of showing the House managers' evening session at the impeachment trial. That lasted about two hours, 15 minutes.

CNN and MSNBC carried the trial in full. Fox News Channel, after showing Rep. Adam Schiff speak for about a half hour, interrupted for a story about a child support case involving former Vice President Joe Biden's son Hunter, and never returned.

Even two PBS stations in the

New York area showed science programming and "Antiques Roadshow" instead of the trial Wednesday evening. PBS said it gave its local stations the option to show the trial or not.

The calls Wednesday night are significant because if the top networks decided not to pre-empt programming on the first full night the case against Trump was laid out, chances are they won't reverse course later unless the unexpected happens.

Daytime was an intriguing contrast, since the top three broadcasters and cable news outlets all carried Schiff's initial stand at the podium, which lasted more than two hours.

It was rare for anyone in today's media world to command full television attention to that extent. The Senate's rules for the trial, which required using a single camera on the

speaker and didn't allow reaction shots of senators, only served to accentuate Schiff's message.

Meanwhile, Trump was setting a record for sending out the most tweets in a single day since he's been president.

For the television networks, however, prime time is a different animal altogether, with more viewers and advertising revenue available. After pulling away from House managers Wednesday evening, Fox News personalities spent much of their time ridiculing the proceedings. Fox mostly kept a postage stamp-size picture of the speaker soundlessly mouthing words in a corner of the screen, with an invitation for viewers to go online if they wanted to hear the arguments.

Fox's Tucker Carlson ran clips of TV commentators on other network personalities who praised Schiff's afternoon speech, call-



In this image from video, House impeachment manager Rep. Sylvia Garcia, D-Texas, speaks during the impeachment trial against President Donald Trump in the Senate at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, Thursday, Jan. 23, 2020.

ing the comments "pornographic." He said Trump wasn't the only victim of the impeachment trial — suggesting viewers were, too. He brought on a former Republican congressman to talk about alleged crimes in the Obama administration and Texas Republican Rep. John Ratcliffe to assess the trial.

"Today was really boring and the president's defense team is very happy," Ratcliffe said.

Carlson also interviewed Republican Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri, with the host saying Hawley had "stepped out of the trial" to talk on television and criticize House managers. The interview was taped during the trial's dinner break, a Hawley aide said.

Similarly, Fox's Sean Hannity labeled the impeachment trial the "Schumer Schiff Sham Show" and attacked Schiff for his afternoon speech. □



This Sept. 26, 2008 file photo shows debate moderator Jim Lehrer during the first U.S. Presidential Debate between presidential nominees Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, Miss.

Associated Press

# 'NewsHour' host and debate moderator Jim Lehrer dies at 85

By **MARK KENNEDY** and **DAVID BAUDER**  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Jim Lehrer, longtime host of the nightly PBS "NewsHour" whose serious, sober demeanor made him the choice to moderate 11 presidential debates between 1988 and 2012, has died, PBS said Thursday. He was 85.

Lehrer died "peacefully in his sleep," according to PBS. He had suffered a heart attack in 1983 and more recently, had undergone heart valve surgery in April 2008.

For Lehrer, and for his friend and longtime partner Robert MacNeil, broadcast journalism was a service, with public understanding of events and issues its primary goal.

"We both believed the American people were not as stupid as some of the folks publishing and programming for them believed," Lehrer wrote in his 1992 memoir, "A Bus of My Own."

"We were convinced they cared about the significant matters of human events. ... And we were certain they could and would hang in there more than 35 seconds for information about those subjects if given a chance."

Tributes poured in from colleagues and watchers alike, including from Fox News' Bret Baier, who called Lehrer "an inspiration to a whole generation of political journalists—including this one." Dan Rather said "few approached their work with more equanimity and integrity than Jim Lehrer." And Jake Tapper of CNN called Lehrer "a wonderful man and a superb journalist." House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called him a "champion for truth and transparency."

Many Americans knew him best for his role as debate moderator. For seven straight presidential elections, he was the sole journalist sitting across from the candidates for the first de-

bate of the general election campaign. In 1996 and 2000, he moderated all of the debates — five of them — and a vice presidential contest to boot.

He told The Associated Press in 2011 that his goal was to probe the candidates' thinking and avoid "gotcha" questions. He felt his best debate performance was in 2004, with George W. Bush and John Kerry, not because of anything he did, but because the candidates were able to state their positions clearly.

"I didn't get in the way," said Lehrer, whose book "Tension City: Inside the Presidential Debates" told stories of his experiences. "Nobody was talking about what I did as a moderator. I didn't become part of the story."

He was lured out of retirement for his last debate in 2012 and it may have been a mistake; he received criticism that year for having too light a touch on the proceedings.

The half-hour "Robert MacNeil Report" began on PBS in 1975 with Lehrer as Washington correspondent. The two had already made names for themselves at the then-fledgling network through their work with the National Public Affairs Center for Television and its coverage of the Watergate hearings in 1973.

The nightly news broadcast, later retitled the "MacNeil-Lehrer Report," became the nation's first one-hour TV news broadcast in 1983 and was then known as the "MacNeil-Lehrer NewsHour." After MacNeil bowed out in 1995, it became "The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer."

"I'm heartbroken at the loss of someone who was central to my professional life, a mentor to me and someone whose friendship I've cherished for decades," said Judy Woodruff, anchor and managing editor of the PBS NewsHour, in a statement.

Politics, international rela-

tions, economics, science, even developments in the arts were all given lengthy, detailed coverage in their show.

"When we expanded to the hour, it changed from being a supplement to an alternative," Lehrer said in 1990. "Now we take the position that if you're looking for a place to go every 24 hours and find out what's happened and get some in-depth treatment, we're the place."

Lehrer moderated his first presidential debate in 1988 and was a frequent consensus choice for the task in subsequent presidential contests. He likened the job to "walking down the blade of a knife."

"Anybody who would say it's just another TV show is a liar or a fool," he once said. "I know how important it is, but it's not about me. It's what the candidates say that matters."

He also anchored PBS coverage of inaugurations and conventions, dismissing criticism from other TV news organizations that the latter had become too scripted to yield much in the way of real news.

"I think when the major political parties of this country gather together their people and resources in one place to nominate their candidates, that's important," he told The Associated Press in 2000. "To me, it's a non-argument. I don't see why someone would argue that it wasn't important."

Naturally, Lehrer came in for some knocks for being so low-key in the big televised events. After a matchup between George W. Bush and Al Gore in 2000, David Letterman cracked, "Last night was probably the first and only that time Jim Lehrer (was) the most exciting person in the room."

But the real-life Lehrer — who had a tradition of buying a new tie for good luck before each debate — was more colorful than he might have seemed on PBS. □

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SUN 1:50 | 4:00 | 6:15 | 8:30

PBP MON-THU 5:00 | 7:15 | 9:30

FRI 5:00 | 7:15 | 9:30 | 11:40

SAT 2:45 | 5:00 | 7:15 | 9:30 | 11:40

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MON-THU 5:50 | 8:15

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SAT 3:25 | 5:50 | 8:15 | 10:40

SUN 3:25 | 5:50 | 8:15

PBP MON-THU 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00

FRI 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00 | 11:20

SAT 2:00 | 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00

SUN 2:00 | 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00

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SAT-SUN 2:45 | 5:05

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PBP MON-FRI 5:50 | 8:35

SAT-SUN 3:05 | 5:50 | 8:35

CXC

MON-THU 5:10 | 7:30

FRI 5:10 | 7:30 | 10:00

SAT 2:50 | 5:10 | 7:30 | 10:00

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MON-THU 6:05 | 8:20

FRI 6:05 | 8:20 | 10:35

SAT 3:50 | 6:05 | 8:20 | 10:35

SUN 3:50 | 6:05 | 8:20 | 10:35

PBP MON-THU & SUN 7:25 | 9:35

FRI-SAT 7:25 | 9:35 | 11:40

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This cover image released by ALA.NI shows "ACCA," a release by ALA.NI.

Associated Press

## Review: ALA.NI aces on an astounding a capella adventure

By PABLO GORONDI  
Associated Press

Paris-based, London-born ALA.NI's second album, "ACCA," astounds with its artistry, an adventurous, almost-all a capella recording whose intricate arrangements and instantly-familiar melodies prove irresistible.

The self-produced "ACCA" expands on the promise ALA.NI showed on "You & I," her 2017 debut — a timeless album featuring her crystalline singing and songs set during the four seasons of a year-long affair — and opens a wide horizon for her musical future.

While the songs are dominated by her layered vocals, ALA.NI gets some assistance on several tunes from beat boxer Dave Crowe, while Iggy Pop recites in French in a possible Leonard Cohen homage on "Le Diplomate" and also has a much more typical cameo on "Bitch."

There's also some bass guitar, cello and accordion, while a discrete string quartet performs on the gentle, lullaby-like "In the Land," and on "Hide," which sounds the most like a "You

& I" bonus track. Lakeith Stanfield's rap on "Van P" provides a bit of contrasting frenzy. Stylistically, ALA.NI proves to be quite resourceful, taking the songs in both traditional and more modern directions. "ShaLaLa," as you may have guessed, is in a doo-wop mode, while "Papa" and "Van P" are basically stripped-down contemporary. "Papa" in particular is ripe for a smart, respectful remix, its beats and chants practically dance floor ready. Opener "Differently" sounds like an ode to diversity or romantic skills, but, a bit like The Police's "Every Breath You Take," it can also have a more ominous interpretation, a sentiment that also fits the dense and intense "Wales."

"Away Go" ends "ACCA" on a purely vocal note, as ALA.NI bares her heartbreak and makes it impossible to listen without being affected by her emotional plea for separation.

ALA.NI's again shows herself to be an extraordinarily skilled musician and "ACCA" is an emotionally piercing album that's upholds her ability to create some timeless sounds. □

## Ousted Grammy chief suggests awards are tainted



This Nov. 14, 2019 file photo shows Grammys CEO Deborah Dugan at the 20th Latin Grammy Awards in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

By DAVID BAUDER  
AP Media Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The ousted head of the Grammy Awards says that music's biggest awards are tainted because of conflicts of interest that infect how certain songs and artists are nominated.

Nevertheless, Deborah Dugan said in an interview on ABC's "Good Morning America" on Thursday that she plans to watch the Grammys this weekend. Dugan was fired only months into her job as head of the Recording Academy and this week filed an explosive complaint with the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission that alleged she was sexually harassed and that the music organization was a "boy's club" that favors friends. The academy, which has accused Dugan of misconduct, has said it has launched an investigation. The personnel allegations had largely overshadowed Dugan's charges about the integrity of the Grammys' awards process — a huge problem given that its annual ceremony is set to be

televised on CBS in three days.

"The system should be transparent and there are incidents of conflicts of interest that taint the results," Dugan said on ABC.

Her complaint charged that a "secret committee" that decides who gets Grammy nominations contains people with business and personal relationships with artists, and that they push their favorites ahead. The Grammy membership generally selects 20 potential nominees in categories and internal committees whittle those lists down to the five or seven eventual nominees.

She charged that an artist who was ranked 18th out of 20 in the initial song of the year process last year got a nomination and the artist was actually on the committee that decided the nominees. The same artist, who Dugan did not identify, is represented professionally by someone on the Recording Academy board.

Dugan suggested the conflict was behind two notable snubs in the cat-

egory, of songs performed by Ariana Grande and Ed Sheeran, although there has been some question about whether Grande had submitted her indelible hit, "Thank U, Next," for the award.

Brandi Carlile, Kendrick Lamar and Lady Gaga were among the nominees for this award, which was won by "This is America," performed by Childish Gambino.

In the category of jazz vocals, Dugan alleged that an artist nominated for an award participated in the nomination process. Again, she did not name the artist involved.

Overall, she said some 30 artists whose work was not chosen as a potential nominee by the Recording Academy membership were added to that list because they had personal or business relationships with people on the nomination committees or the Academy's board.

Dugan also said that nominations were handed out to songs or albums because the producer of the annual awards show wanted them to be performed on the show.

Producer Ken Ehrlich did not answer a message seeking a response to Dugan's allegations.

Despite her charges, Dugan said she's watching Sunday because she worked very hard on the show and loves the artists who will be performing.

"I couldn't say more positive things about all of the nominations and everyone that performs," she said. "Oh, my God, I hate that I'm in this situation because I'd much rather be talking about the artists and their music." □



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